

Complete Collection

OF ALL THE

P A P E R S

Which have appeared from the

DIFFERENT PARTIES

IN THE PRESENT

C O N T E S T

F O R

MEMBERS for the COUNTY of
NORTHUMBERLAND.

NEWCASTLE:

PRINTED IN THE YEAR 1774.

[Price ONE SHILLING.]

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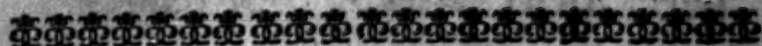
MEMBERS for the COUNTY of

WILTSHIRE

NEWCASTLE

PRINTED IN THE YEAR 1774

[Price ONE SHILLING]



To the FREEHOLDERS of the County of
NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE Editors have two Views in presenting this Collection to the Public: The first is, to preserve many valuable fugitive Pieces, which, in the Hurry and Confusion of a Contest, would otherwise perish with the Day, and be consigned to an unmerited Oblivion. But the Object which they deem of the greatest Importance, is to furnish the Freeholders, at one View, with every possible Information on a Subject which comes so nearly home to them as Men, Englishmen, and Freemen.

The Papers already published are become so voluminous, as to induce the Editors, at this early Period of the Contest, to begin this Collection, which can easily be continued in the same Form, in Case of any future Publications from either Party.

Newcastle, Sept. 21, 1774.

☞ Should any Paper have escaped the Notice of the Editors, and the Publication of the Collection be continued, any Person intimating the Omission, and pointing out where the Paper may be met with, shall have it inserted.

Complete Collection

TO THE FRENCH OWNERS OF THE COUNTY OF
NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE Editors have now taken in possession
this Collection to the Public. The first is to
execute many valuable Justice Papers, which in
the History and Constitution of a County, would other-
wise have been lost. But the Obedience which they
claim of the greatest Importance, is to furnish the
History of the County, which every possible In-
formation on a Subject which seems to nearly relate
to them as their Rights, Liberties, and Privileges.

The Papers already published are become so
valuable, as to induce the Editors, at this time, to
send of the County, to be printed Collection, which
can easily be continued in the same form, in the
of any future Publications from other Parts.

Newcastle, Sept. 21, 1774.

It should be observed, that the Editors of the
History, and the Publication of the Collection, are
not intended to be a Collection of the most
valuable Papers, which have been printed.

The Editors have now taken in possession
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formation on a Subject which seems to nearly relate
to them as their Rights, Liberties, and Privileges.

Complete Collection, &c.

NUMB. I.

The High-Sheriff's Advertisement for a general Meeting of the Freeholders.

——* H E Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders
 of the County of Northumberland, are
 ——* T *—* desired to meet at the Town-hall in Mor-
 peth, on Tuesday the 26th day of July
 ——* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to
 consider of proper persons to represent the said county
 in Parliament at the next general election.

June 23, 1774.

WM LORAINÉ, Sheriff.

II.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

I N the uncertainty when a general election may
 happen, I take this opportunity of returning my
 most sincere thanks for the very great honour you have
 been pleased to confer on me, by chusing me one of
 your representatives in Parliament: And, as my health
 will not permit me to give that due attendance which
 so great a trust demands, I think it my duty to declare,
 that I shall not presume to solicit a continuance of that
 honour; but, in a private station, shall esteem it my
 greatest happiness to embrace all occasions of demon-
 strating a grateful remembrance of having received so
 distinguishing a mark of your favour and confidence;

and I shall take the first public opportunity of returning you my thanks, in person, for the great obligations your goodness has conferred upon me. I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

GENTLEMEN,

Albemare-street,

Your most obliged,

June 3, 1774.

And most obedient humble servant,

EDWARD BLACKETT.

III.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

THE HIGH SHERIFF having by Advertisement requested a meeting at the Town-hall in Morpeth on Tuesday the 26th inst. to consider of proper persons to represent the county in Parliament, at the next general election: I think it my duty to return you my most sincere thanks for the very great honour you have done me, by so often electing me one of your representatives in Parliament; the most sure and flattering mark of my constituents approbation of my public conduct. My late ill state of health, which has prevented my attendance on my parliamentary duty, makes it necessary for me to acquaint you of my intention to decline offering myself at the general meeting. Highly sensible of your former favours, and most earnestly and sincerely wishing the peace and prosperity of the county,

I am, with the utmost gratitude and respect,

Gentlemen,

Bavington,

Your most faithful and obedient servant,

July 12, 1774.

GEO. DELAVAL.

IV.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

THE HIGH SHERIFF having this day agreed to call a meeting at the Town-hall, in *Morpeth*, on *Tuesday* the 26th day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to consider of proper persons to represent the said county in Parliament, at the next general election. And as I then intend to offer myself a candidate, I particularly request the appearance of as many of my friends on that day as conveniently can, and hope they will excuse this mode of application, until such time as I have an opportunity of making a more particular one.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

June 23, 1774

WM MIDDLETON.

V.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

BEING unexpectedly detained abroad longer than I intended, I flatter myself that you will excuse this manner of addressing you. Strongly desirous of representing in the ensuing Parliament so respectable a county as that of *Northumberland*, I shall beg leave to offer myself a candidate at the general meeting that will be held to consider of the election of members for the county. I earnestly request that you will be so kind as to honour me there with your attendance and support; for which I will take the earliest opportunity of thanking you, and of soliciting the favour of your votes and interests.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

ALGERNON PERCY.

To

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

THE HIGH SHERIFF of the county of Northumberland having given public notice, that a meeting is desired at the Town-hall in Morpeth, on Tuesday the 26th day of July next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to consider of proper persons to represent the county in Parliament, at the next general election; I take the liberty of acquainting you that I shall then humbly offer myself as a candidate.—Permit me, gentlemen, to request the favour of your appearance and support on that day; after which I will wait on you, and assure you, that if you shall do me the honour of electing me one of your representatives, I will never suffer any private consideration whatsoever to come in competition with my duty to the public, which I will faithfully discharge with inviolable independence; or with my endeavours to serve my constituents, which I will zealously perform with impartial assiduity.

I hope if there are any freeholders of the county, who have not received letters from me, they will impute it either to the negligence, or mistakes, of the messengers who should have delivered them, or to some inaccuracy of the lists by which they were directed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your faithful, and obedient humble servant,

Seaton-Delaval,

June 27, 1774

JOHN HUSSEY DELAVAL.

VII.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR present representatives having publicly declared their intentions of no longer serving you
in

in Parliament ; in compliance with the request of many of my friends, I beg leave to offer myself as a candidate for that honour at the next general election. And as the High Sheriff has given notice that a county meeting will be held at *Morpeth* on *Tuesday* the 26th inst. to consider of proper persons to represent the county in Parliament, I request the appearance and support of my friends on that day.

I am Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Bywell, July 21, 1774.

WM FENWICK.

VIII.

MORPETH, July 23, 1774.

WE being Freeholders of the county of *Northumberland*, do voluntarily promise and engage to unite as honest men, to give our votes and interest to these candidates *only*, who shall offer themselves to represent this county in parliament, at the next general election, who shall declare themselves *supporters of the free constitution of this kingdom, against all undue influence*: And who will also give their assistance to support the *freedom and independency of the borough of Morpeth, in opposition to all arbitrary power and usurp'd authority.*

N. B. Sir *W. Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* cheerfully complied with these conditions;—and the above Freeholders, at a general meeting, promised to support them with their votes and interest.

IX.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county of Northumberland.

A General meeting of the county of *Northumberland*, having been held this day, in pursuance of my advertisement, to consider of proper persons to represent

sent the county in parliament, at the next election: I think it incumbent upon me, as well for the satisfaction of those gentlemen present, as for the other freeholders, who were unavoidably prevented from attending there, in this public manner to declare the result thereof.— The Right Hon. Lord *Algernon Percy*, Sir *William Middleton*, Sir *John Hussey Delaval*, and *William Fenwick*, Esq; were severally put in nomination, when the shew of hands appeared in favour of Sir *William Middleton*, Bart. and *William Fenwick*, Esq.

I am,

Morpeth, Your most obedient Servant,

July 26, 1774. WILLIAM LORAINE, Sheriff.

X.

MORPETH, July 26, 1774.

HIS Grace the Duke of Northumberland, having declared himself in favour of Sir *John Hussey Delaval*, and publicly espoused his interest, in conjunction with Lord *Algernon Percy*: The Freeholders are now called upon to assert their own independency, for which purpose Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* will do themselves the honour of waiting upon them in person as soon as possible.

XI.

ACCOUNT of the TRANSACTIONS at the COUNTY MEETING at MORPETH, July 26, 1774.

AT a general meeting of the freeholders of Northumberland, held at Morpeth, on Tuesday, July 26, by Sir *William Lorraine*, High Sheriff, to consider of two proper persons to represent the county in the next parliament, the two present members having declined, there was the most numerous and respectable assemblage of gentlemen ever remembered on the like occasion.

The

The business was opened by the High Sheriff, in a speech equally judicious and well expressed.—The purport was as follows: “That he had called that meeting in consequence of a declaration from the two present members, signifying their intention of declining the honour they at present enjoyed.—He said that he had received a letter from Sir *Edward Blackett*, to that purpose, containing his grateful thanks to the gentlemen then assembled, for their favour, which had placed him in his present honourable situation; assigning his want of health as the reason he no longer solicited their support; but at the same time thought, that the best method of expressing his sense of the obligation he felt himself under to the county, was, by assuring them, of his determination to give his vote and interest for those gentlemen who had the approbation of that meeting.—The Sheriff then went on, observing, that as he perceived from the number of candidates to supply the intended vacancies, there was likely to be a contest, he was happy to see a meeting so truly respectable as the present, to determine a question of such great importance.—He added, that from the complexion of his audience, it did not appear to him necessary to expatiate upon the qualities requisite to fill so high a station as that of an independent *English* senator; he should content himself, therefore, with submitting to their judgement the names of the four gentlemen, who meant to propose themselves on the present occasion.”

Mr *Ridley* then rose, and in very few words, expressive of his high opinion of Lord *Algernon Percy*, founded entirely on his great line of ancestry, which had for so great a series of years, uninterruptedly, represented the county, begged to have the honour of proposing his Lordship as a candidate.

Sir *Wm Middleton* next addressed himself to the freeholders, and acquainted them, “That at the request of many friends, for whose opinion he had the highest respect, and whose principles he had been always taught to revere from his earliest youth, he had stepped forward

forward to offer his service to the county at this juncture.—He declared himself a disinterested and independent man, disavowing, in the most explicit terms, every aspiring and ambitious view. Standing upon this ground, he called upon every unbiassed freeholder to support him as a candidate, so long and no longer than he maintained such principles.—He said, That this was the first time he had ever asked a vote from any freeholder; that he had anxiously waited to receive the sense of the county at that meeting, which, should it prove fortunately in his favour, would so far determine him, that he should esteem himself bound, and pledged himself in case of opposition, to carry the matter to a poll, that the freeholders might have an opportunity of exercising a free choice.”—This speech, which came from the heart, and was plainly dictated by an honest feeling, was received with astonishing and repeated plaudits.

After him Sir *John Delaval* arose, and in a long, elaborate, and florid harangue, endeavoured to impress the freeholders with the same ideas of *his* public spirit, independency, and *disinterestedness*; on which last topic he particularly dwelt, thinking himself attacked by Sir *William* in a point in which he appeared *tender*. He enlarged much too on *his* family connections with the county as representatives, which had subsisted even from the first institution of parliaments. He told the freeholders too, that himself was an experienced and able man, and to do him justice, he sung his own praises in a strain far—very far beyond the powers of any gentleman there present. He told them, “That their corn, their wool, their leadmines, their iron works, their linen, their glass-houses, their shipping, their fisheries, — and the coal trade, had been his incessant and invariable objects ever since he could think for himself, or act for his constituents; that it was the height of his ambition to represent such a county, and for that great object he had very readily quitted the representation of every other place.” [Here, we suppose, he meant his borough of Berwick.] He

at length concluded, by passing the highest encomiums on the meeting, which he justly termed a most respectable assembly of freeholders, and by requesting their votes and countenance. No applause.

Mr *Fenwick* next, in a short speech, explained to the freeholders the motives of his offering himself to represent them; which originated in the advice of many friends to the independency of the county; who, from every appearance, thought the measure absolutely necessary; for that an attempt was now plainly intended to force two members upon them: He hoped, therefore, for the sake of their own interest, and to protect the freedom of the county, that they would support him as an independent candidate.—This declaration, which every man present felt to be the truth, was received with great and just applause.

Sir *Walter Blackett* was the next who spoke; he said only, shortly, that for his own part he thought Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Delaval* were the properest persons to represent the county; he repeated that he thought so, for *particular reasons*, into which he begged to be excused from entering: he said again, two or three times, he had reasons which *he did not chuse to give*; and hoped the gentlemen would pardon him for not giving them, and then sat down. This strange declaration, luckily for Sir *Walter*, amidst the variety of other matter, escaped without notice or censure.

No other gentleman seemed then inclined to speak, and the High Sheriff was proceeding to put the candidates in nomination, when Mr *George Greive* got up, and addressed the Sheriff to the following effect.

He said, that he meant on the present occasion to claim, but with the utmost diffidence, that right which reverted to him but once in seven years, of delivering his opinion as became an honest *English* freeholder; he then proceeded in a very pointed and spirited manner to declare, that for reasons, *which he did not beg to be excused from giving*, but would then give face to face, he was clear that neither Lord *Algernon Percy* nor Sir *John Delaval* deserved to be supported by the county; for that after his Grace of *Northumberland* had given

his solemn promise not to interfere in the choice of another member, if the gentlemen to whom he had applied would honour his son with their support, he had actually interfered as far as he could possibly have done, even had he *openly* from the beginning espoused the interest of Sir *John*; for that it was not to be supposed that the noble Peer in any case would have canvassed *Rothbury, Felton, or Alnwick* in person, but that his immediate agents had been notoriously the agents and managers for Sir *John*, from the first moment that the Baronet had paid his compliments to the *great men* of the county. And here he desired that any gentleman would call him to order, if he deviated in the smallest degree from the truth. He waited to see if any body would be hardy enough to deny the charge; but no person having been found so totally deficient in every point of truth and modesty, he proceeded, by observing, that he had other capital objections to Sir *John Delaval*, some of which he would mention;—he then arraigned, in terms equally just and severe, the conduct of Sir *John*, in having made application near two years ago, to a cabal of *great men* of the county, without once troubling himself about the freeholders at large, or even the *unconnected, independent* country gentlemen; that he had heard *great men* expressing their surprize at Sir *William Middleton's* conduct in offering himself so *early to disturb the peace* of the county, when it was notorious that the greatest man in it had openly solicited for his son a twelvemonth before him; and all steps had been taken by Sir *John*, clandestinely to seize the interest of every gentleman whom he had found napping; and had (much to their dishonour) surprized many unwary, indolent *great men* into promises, which disgraced them as *free men*.—In all this part of his speech, he was so clear and convincing, that he was frequently interrupted by bursts of applause.

He next attacked Sir *John* upon his ungenerous behaviour at *Newcastle*, and his conduct to his brother, in endeavouring to dissuade him from going there to support the interest of the oppressed and injured freemen. He stated that behaviour in the clearest manner, and to the

the conviction of every candid hearer ; but 'tis impossible to enter into the whole of a speech that lasted half an hour, and contained such variety of matter. The charge against Sir *John* was plain and pointed ;— and we shall now hear how it was answered.—Sir *John* got up, and said, that he did not doubt that he should obviate every objection which had been raised against him by Mr *Greive*: He made a very long speech, wherein he partly repeated his letter to his brother, and acknowledged that his brother had signified his determination to *serve the burgeses of Newcastle* ; yet, he did not understand by that, nor indeed ever dreamt of, his *intending to stand a candidate* :—But he gave no answer to the first charge against him, except by assuring the freeholders that it was not *quite two years*, as had been asserted, since he had asked the votes of the noblemen and *great men* in the county ; and indeed the whole of his reply to that part of the accusation, was to the last degree unsatisfactory and evasive : And to the other part respecting the *Newcastle* business, he gave not the shadow of an answer which did not tend to confirm the charge : Inasmuch, that in Mr *Greive's* reply, he set out by thanking him for so full a confirmation of every thing he had alledged against him, and of this opinion was every candid man at the meeting. This matter being thus discussed, the Sheriff proceeded to the nomination ; *Ld. Algernon Percy* was first put up, when to the amazement of every one, there were very few hands for his Lordship. Sir *W. Middleton* was then proposed, and had an amazing shew, attended with the greatest acclamations ; Sir *John Delaval* had not 20 hands for him ; and Mr *Fenwick* nearly the same shew as Sir *William*, and much applause. Upon which the Sheriff was proceeding to make the declaration, when Sir *John Delaval* got up, and made a discovery which had *hitherto* escaped him, and said, there were many persons present not freeholders, and therefore made no doubt he should have *the shew of hands* on a poll, and rather indecently vilified the meeting, which before the event he had so highly extolled.

Mr *G. Greive* then very properly called him to order ;

der ; when Mr *W. Lowes* attempted the same language, which was in every respect most highly unbecoming, and reflecting on the Sheriff :—he was soon silenced, however, by Mr *Brandling*. The Sheriff then made the declaration in favour of Sir *Wm Middleton*, Bart. and *William Fenwick*, Esq;

Mr *G. Greive* then said, he hoped that in one point at least they should be unanimous ; and therefore moved the thanks of the meeting to their very worthy and excellent High Sheriff, which was seconded by Mr *Brandling*, and accordingly unanimously approved of. The meeting then broke up ;—we may guess how much to the satisfaction of every independent man, and how much the reverse to those men, who would rule the county with a rod of iron. The Duke of *Northumberland*, Lord *Ravenfworth*, &c. were in town, but not present.—In all probability this will prove a second Sir *J. Lowther's* affair ; and will turn out, if the freeholders exert a proper spirit, to the disgrace of those men, who by grasping at the shadow, it is to be hoped, will lose the substance.

XII.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING had the honour at the general meeting held this day at *Morpeth*, to be nominated and approved of as a fit person to represent you in the next Parliament ; I embrace this first opportunity of returning you my best thanks, for so distinguishing a mark of your favour ; and till I can have the honour of waiting upon you in person, I beg leave in this manner to solicit your votes and interest, at the approaching general election ; and to assure you, that I shall ever pay the utmost attention to the particular interests of
this

this county ; and that no consideration shall ever abate my ardour, to maintain that liberty and independency which are the birthright of every Englishman.

I am, with the greatest respect,
Gentlemen,

Your most devoted,

And most obliged humble servant,

July 26, 1774.

ALGERNON PERCY.

XIII.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

PERMIT us to return you our own sincere thanks for your very great and respectable appearance in our behalf, at the general meeting of the county held this day, to consider of proper persons to represent you in Parliament, at the ensuing general election.

The great majority by which we were so honourably distinguished as your candidates on this occasion, at the same time that it demands our gratitude, calls upon us in the strongest manner to give you every assistance in our power to assert that independency which you are so justly solicitous to support.

We trust that you will believe us when we assure you, that no other motive than an anxious desire to render you that service, and to give you an opportunity of exercising your free suffrages, could have induced us to request your further countenance. At this meeting, gentlemen, the suspicions of every independent man in the county have been confirmed ; and the junction which has been now *openly* avowed, must convince you all of what was uniformly intended against you.

We hope, therefore, that you will now maintain your freedom of election, and shew by your firmness on the present occasion, that you can neither be deceived by artful and ill-grounded professions ; nor will tamely submit to sacrifice your most important interests.

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As soon as time will permit, we propose doing ourselves the honour of waiting upon you in person, when we shall have a further opportunity of assuring you, how thankful we shall be, to have your votes and interest; and of declaring to you our independent principles.

We are, Gentlemen,

(With the highest respect and gratitude)

Your most faithful,

And most devoted humble servants,

Morpeth,
July 26, 1774.

W. MIDDLETON.
W. FENWICK.

XIV.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING had the honour of being approved of at a general meeting of the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county, this day, at *Morpeth*; I take the liberty of requesting the favour of your votes and interests at the next ensuing general election, in this manner, till I can have an opportunity of paying my respects to you by a personal application: Permit me to assure you, that if I shall be elected one of your representatives in Parliament, I will endeavour to contribute as much as I can towards the interest and happiness of the kingdom; and to promote as far as I am able the welfare and prosperity of this county.

I am, Gentlemen,

Seaton Delaval,
July 26, 1774.

Your most faithful humble Servant,
JOHN HUSSEY DELAVAL.

A LETTER from Mr **** to Mr ****, containing a faithful Account of what passed at the General Meeting of the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Northumberland, held at Morpeth, July 26, 1774.

S I R,

AS there have been this week many hand-bills and accounts of the general meeting of this county, distributed every where, tending to mislead the minds of the freeholders by various misrepresentations and false charges, I thought you would be pleased to receive from me a *faithful account* of the transactions at *Morpeth*. You are well enough acquainted with my veracity to be convinced I never make a sacrifice of it to selfish views, or low passions.

At eleven o'clock in the morning the crowd was so great about the *Town-hall*, that the High Sheriff, and the gentlemen attending him, had the greatest difficulty to come up to it. The gates were no sooner opened than every body rushed in with an impetuosity that made it quite unsafe for one, not endowed with strong and active faculties, to venture in the midst of them. I therefore resolved to keep back for a few minutes, in hopes that by waiting a little, I should be able to get easy admittance; but to my great disappointment, I found that the crowd encreased every moment; and I observed, that those who were in the greatest hurry to get in, seemed to have the least business there; amongst others, I saw postillions and footmen, who I was sure were not freeholders, make a bolder and more successful push to go in than their masters were able to do. Upon which I began to suspect that we should not easily come at the true sense of the county on the point in question; and I was at a loss to imagine how the High Sheriff himself would be able to collect it. However, I was so desirous of seeing and hearing what was to be done or said, that I forced my way up stairs, and with the help of a stout tenant of mine, whom I met at the door, I got in, after having turned out half

half a dozen boys that stood in our way. I saw a great many more within my reach ; but as my department was, not to see that the meeting should be properly composed, I contented myself with what I had done ; and I thought Sir *William Loraine* highly reprehensible for having neglected to give orders, consistent with the importance of his duty on that day.

By this time Sir *William Loraine* had began to speak, and he delivered in a tolerable manner the thanks and sentiments of the present members for the county. After having mentioned their resolution to decline offering again their services to the freeholders of the county to represent them in parliament, he acquainted them with the intention of four persons to propose themselves as candidates for that honour ; and he declared them to be Lord *Algernon Percy*, Sir *William Middleton*, Sir *John Hussy Delaval*, and Mr *William Fenwick*. When the High Sheriff had done, Mr *Ridley* got up, and having proposed Lord *Algernon Percy*, he was seconded by Mr *Fenwick* of *Lemington* : I could not hear well these two gentlemen, for above 50 mischievous boys, who had taken possession of the stair-case, made such a prodigious noise, that though I was now a little advanced in the room, I could only distinguish, of all that was said, that Lord *Algernon Percy* had been proposed. On which I expected to hear some marks of satisfaction expressed, knowing well how unanimous all the gentlemen and freeholders of the county had been in receiving his Lordship's offers to represent them in parliament ; but to my great surprize, I did not perceive that any remarkable signs of approbation were given, which confirmed me in the suspicion I had at first entertained, that few of the gentlemen and freeholders, then at *Morpeth*, were present ; and indeed I was right, for many had been obliged to stay below stairs, and others were returned to the *Queen's Head*, after having made in vain some attempts to get in.

Sir *William Middleton* got up next ; and having taken care to put his hands safe in his pockets, and to hold up his head very streight, he attempted to repeat his lesson, which unluckily was not wrote very clearly in his

his memory, so that we expected every moment to see him sit down in the middle of his speech. He contrived, however, to tell us, that his offering himself a candidate to represent the county in parliament *arose*,—*arose*—*not from any views*—*any views*—*of ambition*. He said that he could assure the gentlemen and freeholders of this county that *they would find him at least*—*at least*—*they would find him at least*—*an honest man*. On this I overheard a plain countryman (whom I was told was a freeholder) saying to himself: Well! friend *Middleton*, “you may be an honest man; but if you should not plead better for the interest of this county (was a general land-tax to be proposed in parliament) than you do here for yourself, we have little chance of preserving our privileges.” Sir *Wm Middleton* having with difficulty stammered out his task, there was the most violent stamping of feet, waving of hats, and roaring of huzzas I ever saw or heard; by which I was able to apprehend at least the sense of the crowd there, though I could not yet infer from all this what might be the sense of the county.

Sir *John Delaval* spoke next, and just at that time Sir *Walter Blackett*, who had not hitherto been able to come in, made at last his way through the crowd. Sir *John* spoke like a man of experience and business: He very ably enumerated the advantages of this county; and shewed himself a proper person to point out in Parliament the means of improving them. He was seconded by Sir *Walter Blackett*, but the greatest part of the audience was silent. I was amazed, and desired a gentleman, whom I knew to be well acquainted with the faces there, to tell me if he thought that the company in the hall consisted mostly of freeholders; on which he laughed at my simplicity, asking me whether I had not found out how matters were going on; and he assured me that he could see twenty, of those only about him, not one of whom was a freeholder.

Whilst we were animadverting on this, Mr *Fenwick* stood up; and I own I was not a little concerned to see that gentleman become a tool to Sir *William Middleton*, expoling himself in his old age, and taking pains to
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convince his friends, in the most public manner, how unfit he was to manage their affairs in parliament. But it mattered not; his address, which for reasons best known to him, he spoke out of his hat, was received with the same loud acclamations as Sir *William Middleton's* had been; and a fresh recruit of people, not freeholders, rushing in with the utmost violence, I was so unmercifully squeezed that I sought for an opportunity of making my escape, which I luckily brought about without any material accident.

I went down, and saw several gentlemen below, and found many more gone back to the public house, after having endeavoured in vain to get in. Being then told that Mr *George Greive* was making a most violent and indecent attack upon Sir *John Deval*, I was tempted again to return, but could not reach further than the door of the Town-hall. Mr *Greive* had just concluded what his friends stiled a patriotic speech, giving great reason to every sensible person who heard him, to lament that a young man not wanting in talents, should abuse them so much as to make them subservient to every wrong-headed scheme; and he was considered as far gone indeed, when having hardly recovered from the shame which a fruitless attempt to impose on the Livery of *London* had justly brought upon him, he was taking the earliest opportunity to exhibit the like frivolous endeavours to mislead his own countrymen. Sir *John Deval* answered his cavils in so masterly a manner, and with so much eloquence and ability, that the noisy part of the assembly forgot they were not come to listen to argument, and lent him the greatest attention. Mr *Greive* was getting up to reply, when I was once more irretrievably forced out of the Town-hall, so that I could not be present when the High Sheriff put the four candidates in nomination, and declared in whose favour was the shew of hands; but it was not difficult to guess how that declaration would turn out.

I went back to the *Queen's Head*, where I saw Sir *Walter Blackett*, Mr *Ridley*, Sir *Matthew Ridley*, Sir *Francis Blake*, Mr *Clennel*, several gentlemen of the name of *Fenwick*, all the *Blacketts*, *Ellisfons*, *Soulbys*, *Col-lingwoods*,

lingwoods, Lowfes, Selbys, and a hundred more gentlemen and freeholders, of the greatest property in this county, as well as some noblemen and gentlemen's agents, offering their interests to support Lord *A. Percy* in his election, and all likewise approving of Sir *John Delaval's* proposing himself as a candidate: Then it became easy for every body to know what was the sense of the county; and I was enabled at last to form a proper distinction between *the sense of a few freeholders*, seconded by a crowd of people, who were no freeholders, brought or admitted into the Town-hall, on purpose to shew a majority of hands in favour of Sir *Wm Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick*; and on the other side *the sense of the county declared explicitly by such a majority of gentlemen and freeholders* who were not only expressing their own sentiments, but also those of their tenants or their neighbours, which they were authorised to communicate. And yet, to our great astonishment, we saw Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* supported only by Colonel *Grey*, Dr *Ogle*, Mr *Dixon*, Mr *Ord*, Mr *Brandling*, Mr *Bigge*, and a few freeholders, who, under the pretence that the High Sheriff had declared a majority of hands in their favour, concluded that the sense of the county was, they should be looked upon as the chosen members. And they modestly seemed to require no less than that the Duke of *Northumberland* should give up his claim to the promises made him by every gentleman and a majority of freeholders to support Lord *Algernon Percy*; and that he should concur with them, to turn out his own son, tho' so unanimously approved of, and to oppose Sir *John Delaval's* pretensions, tho' the Duke was informed they were founded on the support of the greatest part of the county. Mr *Brandling* and Mr *Bigge*, swelled with unbecoming airs of importance, seemed to act as council and orators for the two candidates. The former alledged the *equal chance* which their friends had to get into the Town-hall, or to be kept out of it; and he repeated two or three times, that it was an *equal chance*; as if an affair of this nature should have been left to the decision of chance and confusion. But a sensible person very properly observed, that

that they might as well pretend that a majority of hands, at a meeting circumstanced as that was, expressed the sense of the whole *British* nation, as that it did express the sense of the county of *Northumberland*.

I may add further, that what *the small Junto* gave as the sense of the county, was flatly contradicted by the express declaration of all the gentlemen and freeholders above-mentioned; that it was no small presumption in them to give their opinion as constituting the sense of a great county; to set themselves up as oracles to be consulted; to assume the right of pointing out which way interest should go; and to advance assertions and absurdities so strange and repugnant, as could never be assented to by men who paid the least regard to common sense, and who valued the just and free exertion of their rights and liberties.

Mr *George Greive*, or his friends, have boasted of his having brought a charge against the Duke of *Northumberland*, which they say nobody was hardy enough to deny. Absurd, indeed! for, how was it possible for any one to be authorized to contradict a falsehood, which having no foundation, it could not be foreseen would be alledged. And yet, I am so perfectly well acquainted with his Grace's conduct on that subject, that had I been able to have got into the hall at that moment, I should have taken upon me to stop Mr *Greive* in the full career of his misrepresentations. Now to convince the freeholders what little credit ought to be given to this *champion of liberty*, I only beg of them to consider, that if such application had been made by the Duke's agents; in order to produce any effect, it must have been made to such numbers that it would have become a matter of public notoriety; yet not one single instance was produced in support of the charge. If then such an imposition was attempted to be put upon the general meeting of the county, what are the freeholders to expect from the principles of those pretended patriots?

Aug. 3, 1774.

I am, Sir, &c.

To

XVI.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county of Northumberland.

THE great encouragement we have met with during our canvas, has determined us to stand the POLL: And we hope that the freeholders, who have been prevailed upon by false insinuations to promise their votes and interest, will look upon themselves as totally disengaged, and vigorously support their rights and liberties: And such as we have not already personally waited upon, will not attribute it to any neglect in us, but to the hurry of a general canvas in so large a county.

We are, gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servants,

Newcastle,
Aug. 12, 1774.

WM MIDDLETON.
WM FENWICK.

XVII.

A REPLY to the FAITHFUL ACCOUNT of the MEETING at Morpeth, July 26, 1774.

WHEN falshood is opposed to truth, and every attempt is made to deceive the freeholders in the present important contest, it becomes the duty of a good citizen, forgetting the baseness and futility of the attack, to refute such untruths as fall within his knowledge; and to throw every possible light upon a subject in which we are all so materially interested.— A paper, replete with wilful falshoods, has appeared in the course of the last week, entitled, “ A Letter from Mr **** to Mr ****, containing a *faithful account* of what passed at *Morpeth* on the 26th of *July*,” which I will take upon me to prove equally illiberal and *unfaithful*, contradictory and ill-judged.

I too was present at *Morpeth*, and am acquainted with every transaction of that meeting; and will go a step further than the author of that account, by declaring myself ready to *vouch with my name* the authenticity of what I shall now advance; and, not content to

boast

boast of an anonymous "veracity," which every scribbler, however impudent or obscure, may safely assume to the printer of a political paper. The writer of the *faithful account* sets out with the most indecent abuse of the High Sheriff, whose conduct has endeared him to every good man of both parties; and tells us in plain terms, that he was, at all events, determined to act inconsistently with every principle of honour, and to make a declaration in favour of two particular gentlemen, "although it was impossible to collect the sense of the meeting."—How far the moderate men of the Duke's party will thank *their author* for such an accusation, must remain to be seen hereafter; *lost as they are*, I cannot think them so totally devoid of truth and justice, as to cherish his wicked insinuations, and to patronize so notorious a falsehood.—His other charge against Sir *Wm Loraine*, is truly ignorant and absurd; but is not, on the account, more free from the imputation of a base and malevolent intention. It is impossible to make distinctions in popular assemblies: how then "was he reprehensible for having neglected to give orders consistent with the importance of his duty on that day?" An attack of this kind recoils upon its author, and reflects eternal disgrace upon a party that can espouse his principles. But, if they disputed the shew of hands, how shall we account for their evading Col. Grey's proposal to divide the meeting?—The malignancy of this writer, however, transports him beyond all bounds; he says, that the High Sheriff only delivered in a "tolerable manner, the thanks and sentiments of the present members." Every gentleman present can give the lie to this state of the matter, and must acknowledge that there never was a speech more happily delivered, or better adapted to the occasion: Sir *Wm Loraine* established a reputation on that day, superior to the little censure of such mercenary scribblers.

The writer of the *faithful account* proceeds to tell us, that Lord *A. Percy* was proposed by Mr *Ridley*, and seconded by Mr *Fenwick* of *Lemington*. Mr *Fenwick* was not present, and nobody seconded the nomination.—It is true, this is a fact of little consequence, but it may
serve

serve as no bad specimen of the "veracity" of Mr ****, who tells us, "he never makes a sacrifice of it to selfish views or low passions." Here he will alledge perhaps in his defence, that "half a dozen," or "above 50 mischievous boys" (for like *Falstaff's* men in buckram they increase) prevented him from hearing well what was said. For in the same sentence he declares, that he could barely distinguish that Lord *A. Percy* had been proposed by SOMEBODY.—But I will now quit trifles, and cheerfully attend him to the discussion of a more serious subject. I am not less aware than he is of that unanimity which formerly prevailed among the gentlemen and freeholders of the county, with respect to the Duke's son; and am myself one of *hundreds* who would have been happy to have testified their zeal in his support; but his Grace is by this time sensible that he has himself only to blame for their revolt; for there are certain limits, beyond which it is dangerous to advance.—A *crooked policy*, or what the vulgar call *low cunning*, will often defeat its favourite purpose, and bring the person to disgrace, however exalted his station, who studies and pursues it.—Every thinking man is, by this time, convinced of the Duke's interference for Sir *John Delaval*.—In the House of Commons he is known to be his echo, and has more than once changed his public principles and conduct to oblige his Grace, and serve the purposes of his party. He voted for the expulsion of Mr *Wilkes*; yet when his leader quarrelled with the court, and signed the protest against the proceedings on the *Middlesex* election, I saw him mount the chair in *Westminster-hall*; and in a theatrical harangue, declaim against all the measures of administration.—But to come closer to this letter-writer.

Mr *Forster*, the Duke's steward of his court, and Mr *Charlton*, one of his auditors, have been the *go-betweens* and conductors of this farcical transaction, from the time that it was first settled in *Northumberland-house*, until the present moment.—The Duke declared his good wishes for Sir *John's* success publicly at his own table; and I have direct evidence that Mr *Col. Forster* had

had engaged votes jointly for Lord *A. Percy* and Sir *John*, long before the meeting at *Morpeth*. Sir *John's* letters were issued from the house of this *Col. Forster*; his was the house of consultation; and Sir *John* had hardly passed the threshold, before the Duke was seen to enter.—There are some men, however, who wish not to be convinced; but to the plain honest freeholder, in vain shall the Duke plead ignorance, when *facts* speak so stubbornly against him. We deserve not the name of freemen, if we suffer ourselves to be borne away by false and interested professions, when truth and reason are on our side, and enable us to stem the torrent.

The next passage in the letter consists of a very poor attempt to exhibit in a ludicrous point of view, the speech of Sir *Wm Middleton*.—The answer to this shall be as short as it deserves. I shall only observe, that it gives me great pleasure to find that even the malevolence of this writer, although it has endeavoured in a most false and illiberal way to misrepresent his manner, has not been able to touch the matter of his speech. “He arose, not from any views of ambition, but could assure the freeholders, that they should find him at least an *honest man*!” A noble declaration! and give me leave to say, that not his opponent, with all his bought rhetoric and *studied eulogiums on himself*, could produce upon the numerous assembly that listened to him, half the effect which flowed from this modest and unadorned profession.

“A wit’s a feather, and a chief’s a rod;

“An *honest man’s* the noblest work of God.”

But Sir *John* is hackneyed in the ways of electioneering, and it is the fashion of the times to laugh *honesty* out of countenance. Besides, Sir *John* may differ, possibly, from honest Sir *William*, and may really ‘have some views of ambition.’ It were cruelty therefore to pursue him further; for notwithstanding he has not my good wishes as a candidate for *Northumberland*, he may believe me, when I say, that I hope to see him in a higher rank, and shall be ready to join his friends,

friends, and contribute to raise him to the *peerage* he has in view, in any other way than at the expence of the honour and independency of this great county. I will only observe further on this part of the account, that the writer is obliged to admit that there were the loudest acclamations and marks of applause, 'he ever remembers to have heard or seen,' after Sir *William* had 'stammered' out his speech.—A certain proof of his *awkward* manner, and the *foolish* matter it contained.

He now proceeds to tell us, that Sir *John* spoke, and Sir *W. Blackett* was *just then able to get in*. It is somewhat singular, that any man should be so absurd as to publish an account of what passed at a meeting, where he himself owns he was seldom present; which, therefore, as it is founded on falsehood, is grossly contradictory throughout the whole of the detail; his absurdity can only be equalled by his impudence, in supposing the freeholders so devoid of reason, as to be juggled out of their senses by a story which even Mr *W. Lowes*, if called upon, must contradict; and so grossly ignorant, as to be the dupes of a man, who, in the relation of a fact, is weak enough (at the very outset) to confess his want of information.

Sir *W. Blackett* had then been a long time in the court. Falsehoods, of however insignificant a nature, mark the character of an account, and destroy the author's pretended claim to "veracity" in essentials.—The writer says, that Sir *John* "spoke like a man of experience and business." Well might he speak like a man of experience; for, if I am rightly informed, this is the *third time* of his delivering the same oration; for I too overheard "a plain countryman," (perhaps the *very man* my friend, the letter-writer heard) "saying to himself, Well, friend *Delaval*! this may be a fine speech, and was a very good one when it was *first* made; and to be sure you have been *upon the stage*, and amongst the *player-folks*, to learn to *speechify*; but, alas-a-day! this is nothing but the *dregs of Berwick*; I have heard it myself no less than twice before; you might surely have gotten something better:—your linen, your glass-houses, your fisheries, your coal-trade—a meer hum-

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bug! If you served them so well at *Berwick*, why did they turn you out, Sir *John*?—His language, it is true, was vulgar; but the public have it *verbatim*.—I do not perfectly agree, however, with the honest freeholder.—A priest had better instruct his audience from *Tillotson*, than fatigue them with a stupid composition of his own.—And, to say the truth, I thought Sir *John's* old speech not ill-adapted, *ad captivandum vulgus*, to catch the ear of a gaping populace—but it requires more eloquence than even the Baronet possesses, to gloss over a bad cause.

- Men's words the world will by their actions scan,
- The orator should be the *honest* man;
- No prostitute the generous bosom warms,
- The whore peeps thro' the bloom, and blasts her charms.

Mr *Fenwick* is the next object of his abuse; he affects to express 'a concern that this gentleman should become a tool to Sir *Wm Middleton*, and expose himself in his old age.' Was there ever so ridiculous, and at the same time, so scurrilous a charge?—Ridiculous, because it represents Sir *Wm Middleton* at once as a very contemptible person, and yet possessed of sufficient abilities to make a tool of one of the first men in the county; and scurrilous, because it is a lie cloathed in the most illiberal language. Sir *W. Blackett* has not always treated Mr *Fenwick* thus. There was a time when he would have been ashamed to have circulated a paper, containing such base and glaring falsehoods against an old friend.

I come now to a part of the *faithful account*, which, although it be conducted in the same strain of falsehood, is not unentertaining.—He says, 'that he was told Mr *George Greive* was making a most violent and indecent attack on Sir *John Delvaal*; and made an attempt to return, but could not for the mob.' It is remarkable, but very convenient, that this gentleman never should be present to hear any thing *he wished to hear*, except the masterly speeches of his favourite Sir *John*. Mr *Greive* has only to lament, equally with the gentleman, his unfor-

unfortunate absence; which circumstance alone, he tells us, prevented him from 'stopping Mr Greive in the full career of his misrepresentation;' for, I am convinced, that it was the wish of Mr Greive's heart to drag forth the *ablest men* of the adverse party, to defend the conduct of the Duke; for he would then have overwhelmed them with specific charges of the duplicity of that great man.

Sir John Delaval was an easy conquest—from his own mouth he stood condemned—his reply was laboured and far-fetched—he talked "about it, Goddess, and about it," and continued buzzing round the flame, until he perished the unfortunate victim of his own infatuation. But this writer, "for reasons best known to himself," still declines attending when Mr Greive speaks, but contrives to push his way into the meeting at the very instant he has brought his speech to a conclusion:—so that he is very ready to condemn without hearing, and eagerly adopts the slanderous tale of the first prejudiced person he meets, in opposition to the opinion of nine-tenths of the gentlemen present. To crown the whole, he has the unparalleled presumption to publish an account picked up in this way, to which he tacks the epithet of *faithful*, and expects that it should be swallowed by the freeholders and the public. To turn his own artillery against him, "he may be considered as far gone indeed, when having hardly recovered from the shame of imposing an *old ballad* on the public, he is taking the earliest opportunity to exhibit the like frivolous endeavours to mislead the freeholders of *Northumberland*!" Amidst the complicated abuse, however, which he bestows so liberally on Mr Greive, it is amusing to observe the awkward grace with which a compliment is extorted from his rancour—"He is a young man, not wanting in talents;" and yet, "is subservient to every wrong-headed scheme." Sir Wm Middleton makes a *dreadful speech*, and delivers it in the most *unfortunate manner*,—and yet receives the "most amazing marks of applause he ever heard or saw."—*Risum teneatis?*—If Mr Greive possess "any talents," after such a curious specimen of this writer's style of reason-

reasoning, he must be sorry that it is not in his power to return the compliment:—but if I mistake him not, he lives not on empty compliments; for notwithstanding the monkish abstemiousness he publicly affects, he is known to be a *Priest of the FIRST WATER*. I will now follow him to the Queen's-head, where we shall find him to the full as *accurate, modest, and faithful*, as he has shewn himself in the preceding part of his story.

At his return there, (for he contrived to be out of the way before the shew of hands, and yet abuses the High Sheriff for making a false declaration) he found Sir *W. Blackett*, Mr *Ridley*, Sir *M. Ridley*, Sir *F. Blake*, Mr *Glennel*, several gentlemen of the name of *Fenwick*, all the *Blacketts*, (*Tommy* and all) *Ellisons*, *Soulbies*, (he means Mr *J. Soulby*, clothier, only) *Lowes* (*Will* and *Bob*) *Selbys*, (the Colonel and the attorney) and a hundred more gentlemen and freeholders of the greatest property in the county, as well as some noblemen and gentlemen's agents, offering their interests for his Lord and Baronet."

From this state of the matter, an uninformed person might be led to conclude, that none of those gentlemen, except one or two, had been actually present at the meeting; whereas the direct contrary of that insinuation is the truth;—they were *mostly*, if not *all* present:—and from the industry with which he has raked out the *Lowes's*, and some other names he has thought proper to introduce, it is but natural to imagine that there were not many respectable names among the remaining ONE HUNDRED GENTLEMEN.

But the foreness of this writer's party is apparent from the following circumstance, amongst many others equally to be discovered throughout the whole of his account;—he reviles the meeting, and tells us in plain terms, what he knows to be a downright falshood, that it was packed by Sir *William's* friends, and that the sense of such a meeting was of no consequence whatever:—yet in the same breath, lays so much stress upon their determination, as to arraign, in the most shameful terms, the High Sheriff, for taking upon him to decide,

cide, what this writer declares "it was not in his power to collect." But if all this be not sufficient to convince the freeholders of the baseness and falsity of his assertions, how will they be astonished when I inform them, that the Duke, Lord Carlisle, Sir John Delaval, and the leaders of that party, were the only persons really guilty of such an attempt to influence our nomination.

Every tenant and dependant on these *great men*, had peremptory mandates to attend, with the hopes, no doubt, of *carrying the meeting*; but their labour proved ineffectual; for in spite of the efforts of their numerous vassals, and the assistance of almost every attorney in the county, truth and reason prevailed, and for once obtained a victory over interest: Their very creatures, feeling the force of conviction, shrunk from the painful task, and privately declined the execution of their orders.—The letter-writer goes on, mistating the proceedings of the gentlemen, who waited upon the Duke after the meeting. The fact is shortly this:—It was not "with a modest request that the Duke should give up his son," but it was to answer a purpose which was every way worthy their attention. It was a successful endeavour to pluck off the mask he had so long worn, and to force him to an open declaration of those wishes he had so artfully laboured to conceal.—The absurd and impertinent remarks on Mr Brandling and Mr Bigge, are unworthy an answer. Their disinterested zeal and manly behaviour on this trying occasion, will be remembered with gratitude by every independent freeholder, as long as there remains a spark of freedom and public virtue in the county.

But to cut the matter very short, I do assert, and every man who was present at the meeting knows, that the account in question is, from beginning to end, one uninterrupted series of notorious and wilful falsehoods; and, therefore, call upon the author, in this public manner, to subscribe his name to the *next edition* of his production; it is a bantling of which he seems to be extremely fond, then why should he not adopt it publicly? I shall then meet him upon equal terms: But, should he refuse to do that justice to the public

public and himself, I must sit down contented with feeling the goodness of the cause in which I am embarked, and suffer him with patience to expend his venom; deeming it, however, some consolation to have my name enrolled as a friend to freedom with the *Lyons*, the *Greys*, the *Fenwicks*, the *Loraines*, the *Shaf-toes*, the *Swinburns*, the *Ords*, the *Middletons*, the *Wid-dringtons*, the *Craisters*, the *Lisses*, the *Bigges*, the *Ogles*, and the *Dixons*; although it is in truth a melancholy consideration for any man to find himself in opposition to the *Lowes's*, the *Soulbys*, the *Selbys*, and all the *Blacketts*.

AUG. 12, 1774.

A BYESTANDER.

XVIII.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

Fame of families is all a cheat,

'Tis personal merit only makes us great.

Brother FREEHOLDERS of inferior Rank.

TO you I address myself, as having reserved that liberty, which many of your superiors wantonly, or unwarily threw away; I mean the liberty of appearing with freedom, at the late meeting at *Morpeth*, on the 26th ult. for the nomination of proper persons to represent this county in parliament. Recollect you have a right equal with any gentleman in the county, and perhaps a better than any peer of the realm, to thrust yourselves into every such meeting; and 'till that period arrives (which heaven avert) when none but those who are qualified to kill game, or can get into the commission of the peace, or gain preferment in that respectable corps, the trained band of *Northumberland*, shall have the power of electing members of parliament, you cannot be deprived of it. And if the place appropriated for that purpose should be found insufficient to contain us all, our thanks are due to those gentlemen—alas, who labour under premature engagements, and who came shackled to the meeting! And who with so much difficulty *arose, arose*, to the top of the stair-case, and

and with so much precipitance and confusion retired *below, below!* To those gentlemen (Oh woes my heart) who formerly asserted such meetings were necessary for the free election of representatives;—for the preservation of the peace in the county; and, to prevent the increase of power in the great.—But, *tempora mutantur, &c.* Oh liberty! Oh virtue! Oh my country! I wish something could be said in vindication of those gentlemen who thus simply sported with their freedom; Perhaps they may have been artfully hooked, like the incautious trout, by the plausible appearance of an artificial fly. The machinations of a sham independent *Brutus*, whose machivellian contrivance may possibly gain him the approbation of every public defaulter, and his head may by them be admired as a wise one; but should his heart be exhibited to the public, at the lectures of *George Alexander Stevens*, it would (I'm afraid) betray a bottom odious to the sight.

The pen, my brother freeholders, is not my talent; I am no orator as *Brutus* is, or hackneyed in the ways of men. The sword is my profession, which I am ever ready to draw in defence of my country or my honour; and the camp was my university; where, tho' I learnt not the logical art of turning *black into white*, or *white into black*; yet, I learnt there never to deviate from the path of true honour. I took the field at an early period of life;—it was then I became acquainted with *Germanicus*. I know his heart to be sound, and his understanding clear. I have been an eye-witness of his intrepidity and resolution, in the most perilous situations; and is it not pitiful, nay wonderful pitiful, that those who loll'd at home on lazy couches, should now claim the laurels so justly due to his brows? I fought by his side on the heights of *Warburgh*; I bled with him on the plains of *Minden*; and I retreated with him at the battle of *Val*; but the retreat was not inglorious: And when the battle of *Val* shall be fought in *Northumberland*, I know *Germanicus* will behave with his wonted resolution, keep his head erect, his hands from his pockets, and dispute the ground inch by inch; even if the peerless *Brutus* should march at the head of
unaccounted

unaccounted millions, and attack him with the heavy artillery of lead-mines, linen, woollen, iron works, glass-houses, shipping, fisheries, quarries, corn,—and the coal trade.—Therefore, *Britons* strike home! And unite to assist *him*, who has so generously offered his service to us, that he may be able to cope with the heavy metal of the enemy: For as he was one of that brave band who conquered *America* in *Germany*, let us never allow it to be said that *Germanicus* was conquered in *Northumberland*.

I am Your's,

From the Tyne to the Tweed,

Hexham, NON DE LA VILLE BERWICKI.

XIX.

A C A R D.

AN independent freeholder of the county of *Northumberland* presents his respectful compliments to the great men of the county, who have espoused the interest of the D. of N———, and desires them coolly and dispassionately to reflect, 'ere it be too late, on the impolitic part they are now acting in the present contest. He appeals to their own good sense, whether they are not now to be considered more in the light of *Agents* to that nobleman, than as men possessed of a proud, independent interest, which it is in their power to exert, much more to their own honour and with much greater force, than when under the direction of such a monstrous and over-grown influence?—He intreats them further to consider, that in case of the D—'s final success, *he only* will have the credit of the victory, and will reap the laurels which have been stolen from their brows.

To his Electors of the County of Northumberland.

AT a time, when the county is on the eve of a contested election, it is with pain that I observe men losing sight of the great—the only proper object of their wishes, a person able to discharge the duties of a member of Parliament.

The present members have publicly declared their inability to serve from want of health: Let impartial men then, consider, whether it be worth while to plunge the county into all the mischiefs of a civil contest, merely that it may be represented by a young nobleman, whose state of health is unfortunately so bad, that it will allow him to enjoy only the honour of that station.

Whatever amiable qualities that young nobleman may be possessed of; however justly desirous many may be to pay him that compliment, yet, surely, when it is paid him at the expence of the public peace, it is paid at too dear a rate: It is paid too at the expence of our own honour and safety, unless we esteem the business of parliament, and the attendance there, to be of no consequence.

Let not then, Gentlemen, the public good be overlooked in the midst of your disputes, but dispassionately give your voices to two such persons as you think most likely to discharge the duties of this important trust.

IMPARTIAL.

The

XXI.

THE *Faithful Account* from the *Castle*, of the meeting at *Morpeth*, represents the present opposition to the Duke of *Northumberland*, in his attempt to ride the county, as a small Junto, with four or five gentlemen at their head : The following list of some of the gentlemen who have stood forward to support the cause of the freeholders, will be the shortest and best answer to the various misrepresentations on that head :—

The Earl of Strathmore	Mr Story
The Earl of Scarborough	The two Mr Smiths
Sir William Middleton	Mr Park
Mr Fenwick	Mr Reed
Sir Edward Blackett	Capt. Farquhar
Sir Henry Grey	Capt. Paston
Col. Grey,—and all the Greys	Rev. Mr Trotter
Sir William Loraine	Mr F. Forster, jun.
Sir Lancelot Allgood	Mr F. Forster, of Elford
Sir James Pennymen	Mr Kirfop
Sir John Eden	Mr Hunter
Mr Allgood	Mr Wood, of Beadnell
Mr Brandling	Rev. Mr Moises
Mr Ord, of Fenham	Mr Marriott
Mr Bigge	Mr Edward Ward
Mr J. Bigge	Mr Moneaster
Mr Shafto, of Benwell	Mr Alderman Simpson
Mr Dixon, of Belford	Mr Alderman Bell
Mr Edward Collingwood	Mr Bell, jun.
Mr Carr, of Eshot	The Dean of Winchester
Mr Pearson	Dr Dockwray
Mr Miles Stapleton	Mr Swinburn, of Long-witton
Mr Thomas Stapleton	Mr Coulson, of Jesmond
Mr Wentworth	Mr Crafter
Mr Jolliffe	Mr Bates
Mr Shafto, of Whitworth	Rev. Mr T. Bates
Rev. Mr Berdmore	Mr Clutterbuck
Mr Stead	Rev. Mr Clarke
Mr Lake	Mr Hodgson
Mr Dixon	The Rev. Mr Hodgson
Mr Adam Wilkinon	Mr Bullock
Mr F. Tweddell, Threepwood	Mr Bayles

Mr

Mr Fenwick, member for Westmorland	Mr Clutterbuck, jun.
Mr Lacy	Capt. Smith
Mr Wilson, of Hepscot	Capt. Bainbridge
Mr Pratt	Mr Wastell
Mr Errington	Mr S. Cook, --- & all the Cooks
Mr Horsley	Mr Adams
Rev. Mr Clayton	Mr Lisle
Mr Greive	Capt. Middleton
Mr G. Greive	Rev. Mr Middleton
Mr Bryan Burrell	Mr Hargrave
The three Mr Ildertons	Mr Fra. Forster, of Buxton
Mr Vaughan	Mr Clark, of Morpeth
The three Mr Taylors	The two Mr Newtons
The two Mr Carricks	Mr Brown, of Dorsford
Mr Ogle, of Eglington	Mr Creswell
Mr Wilkie	Mr Addison
Mr Smart	Mr Tulip
Mr Widdrington	All the Surtees's (except the banker, who promis'd his vote a year ago)
Mr Archbold	The Mess. Comptons, &c. &c.
Mr Rt Lisle, of Morpeth	

Such are the gentlemen that the modest writer of the *faithful account* has termed a "Small Junto;" but he would do well to consider, that if these "few freeholders" adhere with becoming spirit to the cause they have espoused, a certain Personage will soon have *thin tables at the Castle*.

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THE public will be enabled to judge, from the following authentic letter, (copies of which were sent to all the Duke's agents) who were the persons that took pains to procure a packed meeting at *Morpeth*; and it will serve further to convince the freeholders who were not present, that the friends of the Duke of *Northumberland*, at least, have no reason to rail at that meeting.

(C O P Y .)

S I R,

ALNWICK, July 22, 1774.

YOU are desired to be at the meeting at *Morpeth* next Tuesday forenoon, and then receive such directions from his Grace the Duke of *Northumberland*, as shall then be thought expedient:—I should be also glad to know at what house you set up in *Morpeth*, that you may be the more readily found.—You'll find me at the *Queen's Head*.

I am,

Your very obedient Servant,

COLL. FORSTER.

An ANSWER to all the CHARGES brought against the Duke of *Northumberland*, and the friends of Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Delaval*.

IT is not always a proof of innocence to treat censure with contempt. To turn away from an accusation with supercilious silence, is equally in the power of him that is hardened by villainy, or inspired by innocence. For this reason, I have determined to defend a character which I have always admired, and which must ever be the object of admiration. I do not mean to write a panegyric upon the Duke of *Northumberland*, though perhaps it is difficult to mention his name, and suppress those virtues that have rendered it illustrious. If we view his political conduct, we shall find it steady, uniform, and unbiassed. Like *Atticus*, without taking any active part in administration,

nistration, he is trusted, consulted, and admired. If we view him in private life, we shall in the most dissipated times behold him an example of every amiable quality. But I must cease to praise, that I may remove the force of censure.—The principal charge brought against his Grace, is an attempt to obtrude a member on the county of *Northumberland*. The proofs in support of this charge are so numerous, that his accusers, lost in the variety, have neglected to produce one, or at least one that Candour can admit. They have said indeed; that the agents of the Duke of *Northumberland* have been notoriously “the agents of Sir *John Delaval*, ever since he paid his compliments to the great men of the county, and that one of them had engaged votes jointly for Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Delaval* long before the meeting at *Morpeth*.”—’Tis true they have said it, but sayings are never at any time allowed to be proofs, and more especially during the warmth of a contested election. Supposing these assertions to be facts, it cannot surely be a difficult business to bring one instance in support of them, and I can hardly imagine it will be a disagreeable one. Were I to admit the truth of these charges, I would desire the Duke of *Northumberland*’s enemies to reconcile them with the “artful concealment of his wishes.” So much as to the Duke’s conduct previous to the public meeting, what passed there, must be recollected. It will be readily remembered, nor indeed will it be soon forgotten; that the *shew of hands* were then declared to be in favour of Sir *William Middleton* and Mr. *Fenwick*. I believe they were, and I think it no reflection on the discernment of the Sheriff, that he was not able to distinguish the hands of the freeholders from the hands of that mob, which, it is universally allowed, composed the majority of the meeting.

I must, however, express my astonishment that the non-freeholders were not desired to leave the hall, before the sense of the meeting was taken. This would indeed have been an act of impartiality; but it might perhaps have been called an encroachment on the liberty

berty of the subject, and have offended the patriot spirit of him, whose late disgraceful defeat has not yet taught humility. The necessary and important point of having a majority of hands being procured, Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* immediately repaired to the Duke of Northumberland, and made him acquainted with their success. The Duke had repeatedly declared, if the gentlemen of *Northumberland* would do him the honour to support his son, he would coincide with the sense of the county in the choice of the other member; and they now called upon him to act in conformity to his declaration.

In the train of Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* were some gentlemen of consideration; I will be ingenuous, and allow that the number might amount to six. These were followed by a few freeholders; for that immense croud who were so forward in shewing their hands, were ashamed to shew their faces. Thus supported, did Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* insult the understanding of the Duke, and tell him the sense of the meeting was in their favour. The small number of gentlemen that attended them, sufficiently refuted this assertion; but that numerous and respectable body that appeared in favour of Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Delaval*, was an additional confutation. Here I must step aside to congratulate the Duke on the happiness of his situation. The sense of the county being so clearly discernable, delivered his Grace from every difficulty. His part did not even require deliberation. Had he hesitated, he would have deserved censure; but had he taken any other resolution than that he did, he would have forfeited his honour and his veracity. His Grace has ever expressed the strongest desire to preserve the peace of the county, and his conduct has evinced the sincerity of his wishes. He saw on one side two candidates, relying chiefly on the interest of Sir *Henry Grey*; and on the other Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Delaval*, assisted by almost all the nobility, and the respectable interests of the county. Had he strengthened the weaker party, he must have inevitably produced a conflict.

dict. He acted a part consistent with his own declarations, and which ought to have procured peace to the county of *Northumberland*.

Nothing unanswered now rests upon the Duke, except the charge that is brought against him in common with the other great men of the county. They have combined, it seems, to force Sir *John Delaval* upon the freeholders of *Northumberland*. Men directly opposite in political principles, have assembled together, and agreed to unite their interests in support of a gentleman, who can never give a vote without opposing the wishes of some of the combination. Is there consistency in this charge? Is this the language of creatures who pride themselves upon being rational? One would imagine that the lyre of *Orpheus* animated a log, and the log had uttered it. It is extraordinary, and very unfortunate for the enemies of Sir *John Delaval*, that the only objection they advanced against him (if even well founded) will reflect the highest honour on his character; for surely it is a flattering circumstance, that all the great men of a county, tho' differing widely in the senate, should unanimously concur (or even combine) in support of a gentleman long and well known as one of its most active members.

It has been the misfortune of Sir *John Delaval* to have too many, and too powerful supporters; but above all, it is his peculiar infelicity, to have the interest and good wishes of the Duke of *Northumberland*. Had these aids been wanting, they would have been amply supplied by the assistance at least of one distinguished patriot, whose ruling passion it is to oppose power, however justly and honourably acquired.

I have said nothing on the propriety of supporting Lord *Algernon Percy*, because it is generally acknowledged and admitted, even by most of those men who are warmest in support of his opponents. It is not long since it was the wish of every man in the county to have him their representative: But some men have changed their sentiments, and I could wish to be convinced that it was not rather thro' pique than conviction.

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It is perhaps not necessary to suggest to the readers of this paper, that this is the first time the author ever addressed himself to the public. It may probably be the last.—He writes only in defence of decency and truth, and till these are again violated, he will be silent.—He cannot, however, now take his leave, without expressing his warmest wishes, that the contest may be conducted with candour and moderation; and he would recommend to the most sanguine, to reserve the air of triumph till the day of victory; till that day, when “the melancholy consideration of being in opposition to the *Loweses*, the *Soulbys*, “the *Selbys*, and all the *Blacketts*,” will be no longer irony.

Northumberland, Aug. 16, 1774.

XXIV.

REMARKS on the LIST of GENTLEMEN lately published as the Supporters of Sir William Middleton and Mr Fenwick, in their present Canvas: And on the LETTER signed COL. FORSTER.

IN the present contest, it would be unbecoming the great cause of liberty and independency, espoused by the friends of Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Hussey Delaval*, to descend to gross illiberal invective; this they leave to their opponents:—I shall therefore content myself coolly and dispassionately to refute such calumnies, and to clear up such misrepresentations, as are built upon pretended matters of fact. With this resolution, I shall pass by the many wild inconsistent papers which have been scattered abroad since the late meeting at *Morpeth*, and shall only select One for serious animadversion.

In the course of last week appeared a paper, in which was published a list of gentlemen with their names at length, as avowed supporters of Sir *Wm Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* in their present canvas:—Whereas it is well known that in this very list, small as it is, are inserted the names of some gentlemen, who have not joined

joined them at all ; and of the others, many of the most considerable have equally declared in favour of Lord *Algernon Percy*, and some of them for Sir *John H. Delaval* ; and therefore, whether these gentlemen will think themselves very genteelly treated, to be thus misrepresented, or even to have their names printed at all in common newspapers and hand-bills, I will not take upon me to determine ; but this I will affirm, that if Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Hufsey Delaval* could allow themselves to take the same liberty with the gentlemen who honour them with their support, a similar list of their friends would fill many sheets of paper ; and of this every freeholder must be sensible, who is at all acquainted with the present state of this great county.

In the same paper is a publication of a still more extraordinary nature. In vindication of the indirect practices of his friends in packing the meeting at *Morpeth*, the writer endeavours to prove, that the agents of the Duke of *Northumberland* attempted the same thing ; and to that purpose he has printed a letter, written by Mr *Col. Forster* to one of his Grace's agents or bailiffs, dated *July 22*, (only four days before the meeting) in which the said bailiff is desired to be at *Morpeth*—not accompanied with the Duke's numerous tenants and friends, as might have been expected, considering that Sir *William Middleton* had for five weeks been advertising for his friends to *come as many as can*——No, the bailiff is merely desired to attend himself, there to receive such directions as shall then be thought expedient.

So far from any pre-concerted design, this bailiff is not addressed at all till the Saturday before the Tuesday's meeting :—He is not then required to bring any person with him ; much less to assemble a crowd that were not freeholders :—He appears to have received no previous orders ;—he is not instructed to attend early, and secure a place in the hall ;—nor is directed to shout, or to hold up his hand at any appointed signal. On the contrary, he is expected to be found at his inn, to receive such directions as shall be thought expedient

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THEN; when no doubt it would be highly proper to have the bailiffs ready to carry messages in behalf of Lord *Algernon Percy*, as soon as he should be put in nomination as a candidate.

And as this very honest and faithful servant could, so consistently with every principle of honour and duty, give up a private letter to be printed, there can be no doubt but he would be equally ready to divulge what directions he then or at any other former time received; which would certainly have been published, if they had had the least tendency to influence the meeting at *Morpeth*, or if he had ever been employed to pre-engage the freeholders.

To conclude: Such is the nature of truth, that the more narrowly it is sifted and examined, the more clearly it shines forth. If this writer had not thought proper to print the letter above-mentioned, this proof of his Grace's desire not to influence the meeting, or to pre-engage the freeholders, would have remained unknown to the public:—For I am persuaded that the Duke of *Northumberland*, conscious of his own honour and upright conduct, would have thought it unnecessary to refute reports like these, which, having no foundation in truth, cannot seriously be believed by any liberal mind.

Aug. 15, 1774.

VERAX.

XXV.

ADVERTISEMENT.

WHEREAS several false and scandalous reports have been published concerning his Grace the Duke of *Northumberland* and his agents, and it has been insinuated that we in particular were employed by his Grace to engage votes for Sir *John Hussy Delaval*, jointly with Lord *Algernon Percy*, before the general meeting at *Morpeth*, on July 26th last:

We do hereby declare, that his Grace the Duke of *Northumberland* never did apply to us, directly or indirectly, for our vote or interest for Sir *John Hussy Delaval*, before the said general meeting; nor did

his Grace ever desire us before that time, to solicit the vote or interest of any one freeholder in favour of Sir John, either separately or jointly with his son, Lord Algernon Percy: And this we are ready to confirm by our solemn oath.

ALNWICK,
Aug. 17, 1774.

COLL. FORSTER,
WM CHARLETON.

XXVI.

To Coll. Forster and William Charleton, Esqrs.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE read your curious declaration, which you "are ready to confirm by your solemn Oath;" but before you proceed that length, let me address you in a *Fable*, a language with which you are not unacquainted.

F A B L E.

"Two young men went into a Cook's shop, under pretence of buying meat; and while the Cook's back was turned, one of them snatched up a piece of beef, and gave it to his companion, who presently clapt it under his cloak. The Cook turning about again, and missing his beef, began to charge them with it; upon which, he that first took it, swore bitterly he *had* none of it: he that had it, swore as heartily he had *taken* none of his meat. Why, look you, gentlemen, says the Cook, I see your EQUIVOCATION; and tho' I cannot tell which of you has taken my meat, I am sure, between you both, there's a THIEF and a COUPLE of RASCALS."

The APPLICATION.

An honest man's word is as good as his oath; and so is a rogue's too: for he that will cheat and lie, why should he scruple to forswear himself? Is the latter more criminal than either of the former? An honest man needs no oath to oblige him; and a Rogue only deceives you the more certainly by it; because you think you have tied him up, and he is sure you have not. In truth, it is not easy with the eye of reason to discern,

cern, that there is any good in swearing at all. We need not scruple to take an honest man's bare asseveration; and we shall do wrong if we believe a rogue, though he swears by the most solemn oaths that can be invented.

Should this application prove unsatisfactory, I refer you further for the moral, to your *Master*.

And am, Gentlemen,

Your humble servant,

TRIMMER.

XXVII.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE freeholders of this county call on the gentleman, who at the meeting of the county at *Morpeth*, on the 26th of *July* last, nominated Lord *Algernon Percy* as a proper person to represent this county in parliament, to inform them, whether the noble Lord is in such a state of health, as will enable him to discharge the very laborious and important duty of a representative in parliament.

They likewise call on that gentleman to inform them, whether he will pledge himself to the county, that in case the noble Lord should be elected, and his health should still continue infirm, that the noble Lord should then resign his seat in parliament?

These questions the freeholders propose, as Lord *Algernon Percy* is now abroad, on account of his health; and as they demand an efficient not a titular representative, they address these questions to the above gentleman, as he nominated the noble Lord; as he himself has experienced the labour and fatigue of discharging his trust in parliament; and as he now feels it his duty to resign his own seat on account of his declining health.

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IN a hand-bill distributed in town this week, entitled, "An answer to all the charges brought against the Duke of Northumberland, and the friends of Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Delaval*:" The author professes himself very much a champion in defence of *decency* and *truth*; but whoever he is, I cannot help thinking he violates both to compliment *Ld Algernon Percy* and *Sir John*.

He says, "I must express my astonishment, that the "non-freeholders were not desired to leave the hall "before the sense of the meeting was taken:"—Pray, did not Col. *Grey* make the motion for doing so? And was not his proposal evaded by the party this writer espouses?—Had he been at the meeting, we should have heard nothing of his **ASTONISHMENT**!—He then says, "This would indeed have been an act "of partiality; but it might perhaps have been called an encroachment on the liberty of the subject, "and have offended the patriot spirit of him whose "late *disgraceful* defeat has not yet taught humility". Here I, and many others, understand he alludes to Mr *George Greive*, whose public principles and abilities have long been admired throughout this nation.—As that gentleman is now in *Yorkshire*, he has no opportunity of replying to so mean and ungrateful a charge. The simple fact relative to this defeat is, he was called upon by the Supporters of the Bill of Rights to stand as one of the candidates for the Sheriffalty of *London* and *Middlesex*. They saw the necessity of the times required a gentleman of his principles and spirit for that office. After various solicitations he at last complied; and told the livery It was (now) with cheerfulness he had agreed to offer himself a candidate, upon the principles of preventing those men, who were directly hostile to the rights of the people, from stealing into an office of such importance; but when he saw, during a three day's poll, that there was too much reason to dread another division among themselves (the popular party); and that the wretched tools of ministry were crouding in against

gainst him and his colleague, and endeavouring to foment the supposed division, he could no longer resist the call of duty and inclination, and was determined to give the common enemy no further advantage.—His address was conceived in such handsome terms, and delivered in so manly a way, that he received the universal applause of the livery in the hall, and afterwards the general thanks of the Supporters of the Bill of Rights.—If this was a defeat, it certainly was an HONOURABLE one; and it is ungrateful in the writer of that hand-bill, if an *Englishman*, to throw the least reflection on so brave and exemplary a conduct in *these days*.

This writer again, after paying many compliments to the character of the noble Duke, adds, "Nothing unanswerd now rests upon the Duke."—Here I must differ in opinion with him. There is an old charge against his Grace, which may be met with in *Blackstone's Commentaries*, and has not been replied to. It is, *By vote of the House of Commons, to whom alone belongs the power of determining contested elections, no Lord of Parliament, or Lord Lieutenant of a County, hath any right to interfere in the election of a Commoner.*—Pray, what was his Grace doing at *Morpeth* on the day of meeting? Has he actually been obedient to the order of the house?—Whoever means well to his Grace, must be deaf and dumb on these interrogations!

I would have this writer to understand also, that I am no advocate for any of the FOUR candidates. They appear to me something like our Magistrate Candidates;—will give their constituents no assurances of complying with their directions in parliament;—and equally scorn stepping into the house with any public virtue pinned upon them.—Would they be esteemed, let them follow the patriotic steps of *Phipps* and *Delaval*!

NEWCASTLE, Aug. 19.

A FREEMAN.

XXIX.

AS a specimen of the veracity of some electioneering writers, the following paragraph, which has appeared in all the *London* papers this week, will evince: Those who were present at the meeting at *Morpeth*, will probably be astonished at the *good spirit* that dictated it; and be apt to conclude, that the supporters of the **COURT CANDIDATES** for both this town and county, assume much of the nature of the *father of lies*.

Newcastle, Aug. 19.

DETECTOR.

“WE are assured that at the late county meeting held at *Morpeth, Northumberland, July the 26th*, the hall was so crowded with persons that were not voters, and who were purposely thrust in at the windows before the doors were opened, that a very great number of the gentlemen were excluded, and few of the freeholders could gain admittance; so that the transactions there, which have been so industriously misrepresented in all the papers, were the very reverse of expressing the sense of that great and respectable county. This was in the strongest manner declared for *Lord Algon Percy* and *Sir John Delaval*, by a great majority of gentlemen and freeholders at that time, and has been since confirmed by the universal approbation and support given to them in their canvas, in which they every where meet with the greatest success. The general union and concurrence of all parties in their favour is such as was never before experienced on a contest in this or perhaps any other county.”

XXX.

To the PUBLIC.

ELEGANT language and perspicuity of expression, are too often employed to mislead rather than to rectify the judgment. Whatever honour may be due to the abilities of the writer of “An answer to all the charges,” &c. inserted in the last week’s newspapers, I trust that truth and reason, in the plainest garb,

garb, will attract no less the attention of the impartial public, than the best devised sophistry, though ornamented by every refinement of art and diction.

The Duke of *Northumberland*, even according to this writer, promised, "in case his son was supported, "to coincide with the sense of the county in the "choice of another member;" but I have been told by Sir *William Middleton* and other gentlemen, that upon Sir *William's* application, the Duke's words were, "As the gentlemen of the county have been so "obliging to promise to support his son, he would "be determined by the sense of the county at a general meeting, what other candidate to espouse."—The High Sheriff had advertised for a general meeting; the candidates, separately, by letters and advertisements, begged the attendance of their friends in support of them upon that day; his Grace, attended by a coach full of his domestic *Freeholders*, including his very gardener; Lord *Ravenworth*, with all his interest and friends; the agents of some other absent Lords, contributed to render the meeting both numerous and respectable.—In short, Sir *John's* acknowledgement of it in his florid speech, as well as that of the other candidates, will for ever put the matter beyond dispute, in the judgment of all whose passions and interest are not concerned in the event.

The prodigious applause and crowd of hands held up for Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick*, when proposed, left not the least room to doubt the majority, which the High Sheriff did not only immediately proclaim, but has since repeated the declaration in the public news-papers.—The writer of the *Answer*, &c. must be sensible of the low subterfuge his Grace was driven to upon the occasion, of collecting his friends into a private room in a tavern, when by drawing from some of them an assent that the meeting was composed of a mob and not freeholders, and that the majority of gentlemen was in favour of his son and Sir *John*, he found, what he thought, a plausible pretence to evade his declaration to Sir *William*.

This, I believe, is a true and impartial state of the

the facts, and the world will judge. — Mess. Forster and Charleton stand charged with engaging votes for Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John*, before the meeting. Mr Forster, who I believe has a regard to truth, says, “he is willing to make oath he never had orders from his Grace so to do;” but does he not rather evade than answer the charge? For instance, the Duke’s Chaplain at a side table, upon a public day at the castle, before the meeting, gave for a toast, “The two candidates, Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John*,” and on being told, by some at the table, it might not be agreeable to every body, said, “We’ll compel them to come over.” — It will be unnecessary for the Chaplain to make oath, that he neither had express nor implied orders for such unguarded speeches, but inferences may and will be drawn.

A FREEHOLDER.

XXXI.

To the FREEHOLDERS of NORTHUMBERLAND.

FIVE NOBLEMEN are combined together, and have been so for twelve months past, to choose representatives for this county: One they have nominated, is the son of a Duke, who must be under the immediate direction and influence of his father; the other it is notoriously known, nay acknowledged by many who support his interest, that a peerage is the great object of his life. — Will such a representation be consistent with the interest of this county, and the constitution of *Great-Britain*? — The most contented, complaisant slave to aristocratical power, is called upon to defend it.

A FREEHOLDER.

XXXII.

A Second REPLY to all the Answers from the Castle.

IT is a constant and not an injudicious practice with the enemies of truth, to perplex where they cannot

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convince, and to involve fact and misrepresentation in one general confusion. Of such a nature are the various publications from the Duke's party in the papers of last week.—One of these gentlemen (possibly the writer of the *faithful account*) very modestly assumes the signature of *Verax*, and presents us with some remarks, equally absurd and unjust, on the list of gentlemen in opposition to the Duke, and on the letter signed *Coll. Forster*; whilst another, in bad grammar and worse argument, produces a paper, which, with a greater share of modesty, he takes upon him to pronounce "An answer to all the charges brought against the Duke of Northumberland, and the friends of Lord A. Percy and Sir John Delaval?" And, to crown the whole, we have a thundering advertisement, threatening a *solemn oath* from Mr *Coll. Forster* and Mr *Wm Charleton*.—It is a bold undertaking; but, I think, that by the help of a little common understanding and the powerful aid of truth, it will be no difficult matter to overturn all their reasoning, and to destroy the joint efforts of *Verax*, *Anonymous*, *Coll. Forster*, and Mr Justice *Charleton*.

I shall begin with the "Answer to all the charges." A paper, which, as it assumes to itself all the truth, argument, and consequence of the party, is clearly entitled to the respect of being first attended to.

He opens his boasted answer with the most fulsome flattery of the Duke, which he says he does not, "mean to be a panegyric;" and with an officious zeal, for which that great man will not thank him, provokes an enquiry into his *private* and political character. But even the rashness of this writer shall not lead me to a violation of decency, nor induce me to embrace an opportunity at once so fair and tempting.—I feel the liberal spirit of a gentleman, and will not descend to enquire into his private moments.—It is no censure, however, to say, that "in the most dissipated times" even the Duke of Northumberland is not without the failings of his nature.

But, however gently I may pass the *man*, the *politician* shall not so readily escape me.—The writer tells us, that "the Duke is steady, uniform, and unbiassed; like
ATTICUS,

ATTICUS, without taking any part in administration, he is trusted, consulted, and admired." This language may suit the meridian of his Grace's table, and impose upon his vassals, but is too gross to be swallowed even by those country gentlemen, whose knowledge in politics is measured by a London newspaper.—We know that as a public man he is *never* "consulted;" he cannot, therefore, be "admired." And how is that man to be "trusted" who has deceived every party with which he has been connected, and is declared by his Sovereign to be "his most ungrateful subject?" Of late, indeed, he has paid court to Lord *Chatham* and Lord *Temple*, and with the best of causes, they want the sanction of his name and property, and have administered to his vanity to keep him from desertion: But the opinion of the only men who think it worth their while to pay the least attention to this finished ATTICUS, may be best collected from "the History of the Minority;" a book of authority and reputation, where we shall find Lord *Bute* making it a condition with Lord *Chatham*, that this *great character* should be at the head of the treasury; and Lord *Temple* scouting the idea, and with the spirit of a man and an Englishman, on that account, breaking off the negotiation.—Let us hear no more then of the Duke's political character.—Shall the man who sacrifices gratitude to ambition, and the feelings of humanity to carry a point at an election, receive our sanction, and be held up as a character to be "consulted, trusted, and admired?"—Shall the man who stands convicted in the year 1769 of having used the most shameful and daring measures to awe the freeholders of *Middlesex*, and narrowly escaped the consequences of having abetted the *Brentford* rioters, presume, in the year 1774, to declaim against mobs, and talk to the freeholders of *Northumberland* of his attachment to the "great cause of liberty and independency?"—No flattery shall palliate; no greatness shall be allowed to protect him.—Unlike ATTICUS, he wishes to obtain "an active part in administration!" And should he, unfortunately, succeed in his designs upon the county, he will, without reluctance, commit our consequence in the state, and to

serve the purposes of his interest or ambition, lay *Northumberland*, with her prostrate members, at the feet of a minister.

The next part of "the answer" is a bare repetition of the charges against the Duke; and an assertion that they are unsupported.—The language of controversy is at all times dry and intricate; but can never deserve attention when it consists only of recapitulation. I am of opinion that proofs of the Duke's interference *have* been adduced, which "candour will readily admit."—It is not necessary to prove that he *employed* his agents to procure votes for Sir *John Delaval*, nor has it ever been asserted; but I appeal once more to the understanding of the freeholders, whether they can believe, that Mr *Forster* or Mr *Charleston* would have taken upon them to solicit for Sir *John*, without perfectly understanding his Grace's wishes; although he did not "apply to them for their vote or interest, or employ them to engage votes jointly or separately," for his son and Sir *John Delaval*? Conscious of having taken such steps themselves, previous to the meeting, they very artfully seize this subterfuge, and take shelter under a most evasive and flimsy declaration; but they are men of *known veracity and honour*, I should be glad, therefore, *for my own sake*, not to drive them to an affidavit:—For as *Hudibras* says,

"He that imposeth an oath breaks it,

"Not he who *for convenience* takes it."

Silence and an active canvas will serve their master more effectually, than either their arguments or their affidavits. That the Duke's agents did engage votes for Sir *John Delaval*, is a fact that stands uncontroverted; and which I too am ready, at any time, to confirm by evidence, to the full as strong and credible as even the "solemn oath" of Mr *Collingwood Forster* or Mr *Wm Charleston*.—I never did suspect that the Duke had so far forgot his cunning, as to give an *open* handle for a charge, which, if brought home, must have turned the scale against his son, and bid fair to overfet his whole plan of operations. It is sufficient to work conviction on every thinking mind, to be informed, that his agents were *always*, as they continue to be, the agents and managers

nagers for Sir *John Delaval*; it is a truth which his creatures have never attempted to deny, and it were an insult to the understanding of the freeholders to point out the inference.

The abuse of the High Sheriff is now again brought forward; although with an awkwardness which is always the attendant upon guilt; he pretends to palliate a conduct, which, in the same sentence, he endeavours to point out as unfair and dishonourable. In the huge pile of fallhood and abuse that the party have reared, no figure has hurt the eye so much, and given such general offence to every dispassionate observer, as their misrepresentation of that excellent young man. No county meeting could be better conducted. The High Sheriff was ready to pursue any measures that should be pointed out to him, and cheerfully acceded to the proposal of *dividing the meeting*; a measure which Sir *John Delaval*'s friends, when pressed to it, very wisely thought proper to oppose; as it would have effectually established the nomination beyond the power of cavil, and frustrated their illiberal plan of traducing the meeting as "a mob," because it did not answer his sanguine expectations. Anonymous writers boast that this is "universally allowed;" but no man of credit will maintain such an assertion, or vouch with his name one syllable of those stories which they are labouring daily to impose upon the public.—If any colourable charge of partiality could be brought against Sir *Wm Loraine*, his accusers would not play so dastardly a part, and hide themselves with such industry from day-light.—But such loose and defultory charges are best suited to the cause in which this writer is said to be a *principal*; his flattery of the Duke stamps him his *bumble* adherent, and his language throughout bears the strongest marks of a malignant and disappointed spirit. The rest of his "answer," as he terms it, is equally false and illiberal; there were at least *twenty* gentlemen who attended Sir *Wm Middleton* and Mr *Ferwick* to the Duke, to acquaint him with the proceedings, and to be informed of his intentions; and, for my own part, I cannot conceive how they could have acted otherwise. The sense of that meeting was collected

collected from the shew of hands; and it is the only method at any county meeting. But to remove every pretext of complaint or censure on the Sheriff, the friends of the successful candidates were the first to offer a *certain mode of decision*. Of what then does this "advocate for decency" complain?—He is lost in a labyrinth of falshood and scurrility, and wants, indeed, "the lyre of Orpheus to animate his loggerhead."—*The Automaton** which his Grace's chaplain met with in his travels, could play at chess, and possessed judgment and volition, and with a little more of his management would have turned out an abler defender of his master.

He now "steps aside to congratulate the D. on the happiness of his situation! Had he taken any other step than he did, he would have forfeited his honour and veracity."—In my turn, permit me to congratulate the writer on the discovery he is pleased to make. His Grace was now "delivered from all his difficulty;" that is, in plain English, he always intended to palm Sir John upon

The Rev. Mr Dutens, vicar of *Elldon*, in *Northumberland*, in a letter from *Fresburg*, in *Hungary*, gives a most extraordinary account of an *Automaton*, made by M. de *Kempett*, *Aulic Counsellor to the Queen*, "which (to use his own words) could play at chess with the most skilful player."—He tells us, that "he played with the Automaton himself, and particularly remarked, with great astonishment, the precision with which it made the various and complicated movements of the arm with which it plays:—If it ought to take one of its adversary's pieces, then (by one entire movement) it removes that piece quite off the chess-board, and places it in the square which the other had left vacant." He adds, "I attempted to practise a small deception, by giving the QUEEN the move of a KNIGHT; but my mechanic opponent was not to be imposed upon; he took up my queen, and replaced her in the square she had been removed from.—All this is done with the same readiness that a common player shews at this game; and I have often engaged with persons who played neither so expeditiously nor so skilfully as this Automaton, who yet would have been extremely affronted, if one had compared them to *him*.—You will perhaps expect me to propose some conjectures, as to the means employed to direct this machine in its movements. I wish I could form any that were reasonable and well-founded."

upon the county. He expected that his son would have been taken without a dissentient voice, and then he was publicly to stand aloof and leave the two Baronets to fight it out. It is beyond a doubt that Sir John was determined on a contest, for he declared that he had 30,000 l. to throw away: His plan was prepared, and no attorney in the county, who would accept of a fee (and few will refuse one) was left untempted.—In this situation of things, we may guess from the event the part that his Grace's agents would have pursued, "without waiting for his orders," and to use a language not ill adapted to Mr *Charleton's* capacity, neither himself nor his friend Mr *Forster*, would have found much difficulty in discovering his Grace's meaning by his mumping.

Such, brother freeholders, was this great man's plan for "procuring peace to the county of *Northumberland*;" and it is to the sensible and spirited measures of our independent candidates and their friends, that we owe this detection which was extorted from the Duke, and that we have now to boast a cause that does credit to their discernment; and must ever distinguish an opposition founded not on principles of "pique," but on the most honourable and manly basis.

The writer lays great stress upon the concurrent support of "almost all the nobility, and the respectable interests of the county; and upon that unanimity, which all parties in the senate, of the most heterogeneous principles, have shewn to Sir *J. Delaval*." He must either know little of the world, or suppose that he has arrant fools to deal with, when he passes this as an eulogium upon Sir John; for not to mention that he had taken many of their interests by surprize, the county of *Huntingdon* is a striking instance of a combination of the Lords, which is conducted with unremitted zeal against the independent freeholders. The Duke of *Manchester*, Lord *Ludlow*, and Lord *Sandwich*, than whom no men can be more opposite in parliament, are at the head of this aristocracy, and in this point, however widely they may differ in other matters, they all agree to keep down the spirit of the people, and to put in members for the county.

We

We too have been kept long in trammels; but a spirit has gone abroad amongst the freeholders which will not easily be suppressed; and I can answer for myself that they shall not want information. My name is always ready to vouch the authenticity of my assertions; and whilst I possess this superiority over my adversaries, I trust that they will be considered as the adversaries of truth, and that their anonymous productions, however specious, will not be suffered to rob me of my credit with the public. When such impudent attempts are made to trample us under feet, and to cajole us out of our reason, we are called upon at once, to assert our rights and vindicate our understanding.

This writer, in common with the other writers of his party, has talked in a very exulting strain, and boasted much of our *anxiety* to have Lord *A. Percy* as one of our representatives; but the good humour and complacency of the county has intoxicated the Duke, and lulled him into a dream of error, from which he must shortly be awakened. It was not *his son* the county wished to have their representative; it was a compliment to the Duke of *Northumberland*, which we all paid him, with a *politeness* that reflects disgrace upon us as *Englishmen*; but is a compliment that will never be paid him a second time.—Forgetting the importance of the trust, and regardless of the necessary character of a proper representative, we submitted to receive his nomination of *one member* for the county.—We took it for granted that one of his sons would be permitted to do us that *honour*, but made no distinction between Lord *Percy* and his brother. There never was so handsome, so genuine a *compliment*; but the same wretched policy that has led him to aim at over-reaching the electors of *Westminster*, as a freeman, I hope, will overturn him in this county; and should that “day of triumph” be not yet arrived, it cannot be far distant.

With us too, men of discordant public principles have united to support the freedom of the county, and to curb his overbearing disposition. Firmness and unanimity must at length prevail, and even *his* “spirit, by a disgraceful defeat, may be taught humility.” Any man
but

but *Atticus* would have thought it a more glorious distinction than the titles and honours he has purchased, to have seen his youngest son, without inclination or abilities to fill the station, elected without a dissentient voice, to represent the county of *Northumberland* in parliament:—but his finess is perpetually at work, and his thirst for power is only whetted by the noblest blessings and the highest enjoyments this world is able to bestow.

His property is equal at least to all his merits; but wanting “that peace of mind which the world cannot give,” I envy him not his immense possessions, nor even his new attachments.—*Col. Forster* is a man after his own heart; and it was long matter of astonishment to the world that they could ever be such bitter enemies; their friendship is now cemented by the common tie of interest, and whilst that bond of union remains, there is no reason to dread a separation:—it was begun without sincerity, and will end where it began.

The mention of this man recalls to my remembrance a circumstance with which I must refresh the memory of *Atticus*:—He, too, is fond of Sir *Harry Grey*, and has reason to recollect the TRIAL.—Where then was the Duke’s popularity with which we are now stunned from every quarter of the Castle? The judge, the jury, the people will give an answer:—never was there in truth “so disgraceful a defeat, and yet he is not taught humility.—Still this was but a finger of that hand which is now laid so heavily upon us;—it was, however, a signal victory, and the joy was universal.

But it is high time to turn aside to *Verax*.—A very short answer to all his ingenious remarks will satisfy the public: like his brethren of that party, he too has recourse to falshood, and wilfully misrepresents those facts on which he pretends to give us so critical a comment.

The paper which has made “the gall’d horse wince,” is not given as “a list of gentlemen, avowed supporters of Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick*,” it is expressly given as a list of gentlemen “in opposition to the

H

Duke

Duke in his attempt to *ride the county*." It is true, however, that some of the gentlemen have been entrapped to promise to support Lord *Algernon*; but it is probably the last time that ever that circumstance will happen; and I hope that the Duke will live to see the day, when these gentlemen shall tell him their opinion of his conduct; and when, instead of the long list of names, which *his cunning*, and the *aristocratic faction* have at present procured him, he will find himself forsaken amidst all his greatness, and have only to lament too late, that baneful policy which has tormented him through life, and finally conducted his restless spirit to disgrace. It is almost unnecessary to observe upon the letter signed *Col. Forster*, that it was not published "in vindication of the indirect practices of Sir *Wm Middleton* in packing a meeting at *Morpeth*!" This is a lie of the grossest nature, which they have daily the impudence to repeat against their own knowledge and conviction:

"Destroy his fib or sophistry in vain,

"The creature's at his dirty work again."

Sir *William Middleton*'s friends did never, *directly* nor *indirectly*, attempt to pack the meeting; and it was that wicked and rascally charge, which *no man dare avow*, that produced the publication of *Col. Forster*'s letter. It went only to prove, (and no more was intended by it) that if any such steps were taken, they were taken by the adverse party;—for every agent of the Duke is there expressly ordered to give his attendance, "*not at his inn*," but at the *meeting*. But their abuse of the *greatest and most respectable meeting* this county ever saw, is to the last degree ill-founded and ridiculous. With what face can either Lord *Algernon Percy*'s friends (for he is at *Jerusalem*) or Sir *J. Delaval*, take upon them to traduce a meeting, whose sanction they expressly borrow, in their subsequent addresses to the freeholders?

Sir John says, "Having had the honour of being approved of at a general meeting of the gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders of the county, this day at *Morpeth*,

Morpeth, I take the liberty, &c. &c." The Duke goes a step further for his son, and adds, "I embrace this first opportunity of returning you my best thanks for so distinguishing a mark of your favour." Facts like these speak for themselves, and must convince every man who is not loth to be awakened from his delusion, and is not obstinately determined to persist in error.

A few words more to *Verax*, and I have done with him. — If any "gross, illiberal invectives" have escaped my pen, it is the writer of the *faithful account* to whom his party are indebted for such language. His letter was the most false, illiberal, and abusive production, that ever disgraced the pen of PRIESTHOOD. He has, however, met with his deserts; and his fate should be a warning to those writers who, treading in his foot-steps, pursue the crooked path of falsehood, and sacrifice at the shrine of interest, every principle of justice and of candour.

I cannot conclude this paper without observing upon the paltry reflections which these scribblers are incessantly throwing out against Mr *Griffin*: — That it must be a source of real pride and satisfaction to him to find, that with every symptom of a wicked and malignant disposition, it is not in their power to touch his character, or to throw the least colourable slur upon his reputation. The very circumstance they have selected for their abuse, is, in truth, the most splendid action of his life; and marks him at once the man of honour, and the "distinguished patriot."

He nobly offers to dedicate a great part of his small fortune to the service of the public; not in the dishonourable way of purchasing a borough to become an adventurer in parliament; but from a pure and disinterested zeal to render essential service to a cause, in which he has been a consistent and unwearied labourer. — The freemen of Newcastle have recorded his name with honour, and the uniform tenour of his conduct has established his fair fame, far beyond the reach of *Atticus* and his adherents. But they know his merit, and continue to abuse, only because they could

could not obtain him. "These praises are extorted from me; but they will wear well, for they have been dearly earned."

It is true, however, that he does not understand the art of laying out his money so well as Sir *John Delaval*:—His sale of *Berwick* is not yet forgotten. And should the Duke of *Northumberland* by the assistance of his two members for the county, rise to the head of the Treasury, and his friend Sir *John* be at length established at the *Board of Trade*,—I am afraid that Mr *Greive* will find that he has taken a part by which (as *Charleton* observes) "there is nothing to be gotten," and will stand but a poor chance for promotion.

August 26, 1774.

A BYESTANDER.

XXXIII.

To the Freeholders of NORTHUMBERLAND.

AS party (not candour) seems to be the moving power which puts the several presses in motion; permit an impartial observer to offer his sentiments on the present contest for the county:—A contest carried on with all the despotic weight of tyrannic power, calculated to oppress the honest freeholders at large, as well as us poorer sort, who, however, can never be poor indeed, or looked down upon by the highest, so long as we preserve the character of honest men. Reflect, my worthy countrymen, that in case of a war, you will be the first called upon to protect not only your sovereign, your liberties (if any are left you) and your own families, but must lavish your blood to support the luxury, the extravagance, and ambition of the nobility, whose tables groan under the weight of profusion, while the industrious and laborious are in want of the common necessities of life; yet, I trust, you are as honest men as any Lord among them. Have you farms? Are you afraid of losing them? Do you pay your rent and the taxes? If no failure in either (tho' both are enormous) what right has your landlord to compel you to give your voices

voices contrary to your consciences? Canvas your own hearts fairly, and you will find the obligation is due to you. No nobleman will drudge at the plough, nor will he fill his house with such servants as will do it for him. 'Tis, therefore, his own interest to let his land; and does not he prefer the highest bidder?—To your labour alone he stands indebted for his support, and to that tranquillity of mind which a good man might enjoy at his leisure; not feeling our distress at a bad crop, nor the anxiety of the loss of cattle; and you cannot, then, be further subservient in justice to yourselves, your posterity, or your country; for in vain you complain of the corruption of your representatives; if yourselves set them the example, you are that first movement and main spring.

Rouse you, therefore, my dear countrymen; disdain the *bit*, and scour the plain of all the invaders of our sacred rights; and shew the world that the brave sons of *Northumberland* will to endless ages be free.

PLAIN TRUTH.

XXXIV.

To the Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

THE season now draws near, when the present parliament must in due course of law be dissolved, and the people of *England* be again called forth in their collective capacity to appoint their own trustees in parliament.—Your present representatives have already declared their resolutions of resigning your service; and a variety of candidates now stand forth to solicit your favour and confidence. These circumstances severally considered, I shall wave all apology for appealing to the plain good sense and courage of the county at this important crisis. I call it important, when I consider the nature, extent, and duration of the trust you repose in your representatives.—To these guardians of your rights, you intrust the disposal of your fortunes, of your liberties, of your lives, for a term of years that might

might seduce even a conscientious representative to believe, that he derives his authority in parliament from a right inherent in himself, and not from a conditional delegation of the people. On this view of the dangerous power you transfer, I conjure you to claim as the unquestionable prerogative of your body, and as the basis of all your liberties, the freedom of election, and an exclusive right to choose your own representatives. That the exercise of this right should be full and free, uncontrouled by the power of the crown, undisturbed by the influence of the nobles. Let neither temptations of gain, nor intimidations of power seduce you to renounce this right; it is your lawful inheritance; it is the root that feeds and invigorates the democratical branch of the constitution. This truth, and its important uses to the liberties of the people, will be more clearly seen by a short review of the three estates that compose the system by which the nation is governed.

In all nations, the highest known authority of the state is legislative, or the power of making and annulling laws.—In some states this power is vested in the king alone; in others, in a particular body of men; in others again, in the people at large.—The wisdom of our own constitution has placed it in the joint consent of King, Lords, and Commons; at the same time it has armed each estate with a negative power, sufficient to defeat the progress of such laws as they deem prejudicial to their own particular rights, or to the general welfare of the community. This consent or dissent of the King is expressed by the King in person, or by commissioners acting under his authority:—That of the Peers by the vote of each individual Peer in person, or by his proxy:—The consent or dissent of the Commons is declared by the voice of their representatives. Thus the privileges and immunities of the crown, the rights and property of the peerage are protected in parliament, against the encroachments of the other estates, by the personal interposition of the party itself; while the rights of the people are maintained in the national assembly,

assembly, by the personal service of the representative body alone.

To preserve representatives firm and faithful in the execution of their trust, and to secure the independency of the popular branch of the legislature thus exposed, from an undue controul of the crown and peerage, an exclusive right is vested in the collective body of the people to elect their own trustees. This independency of the Commons is further confirmed by statutes, that disqualify whole classes of men attached to the service of the crown, from gaining a seat in parliament. To these I will add a resolution of the House of Commons, which prohibits Peers from giving their votes at elections. This is followed by another, in which it is declared a high infringement of the liberties and privileges of the Commons of *England*, for any Lord of Parliament, or Ld Lieutenant of a county, to concern themselves in the election of members for the Commons in parliament. These resolutions, not made upon the spur of a particular necessity, or to gratify the wanton passion of the day, are built upon the true and permanent principles of the constitution; as such, they are duly recognized at the commencement of every succeeding session, and now form a part of the standing orders of the house.

This privilege of electing our own representatives, so essential to the preservation of all our rights, we claim as our lawful birth-right. It is our duty to enforce it more particularly at this crisis, when a dangerous confederacy of Peers hath arose in this county, to controul the choice of the freeholders, and to reduce this flourishing, this opulent, this respectable county, to the dependency of a *Carnish* borough.

A Freeholder of the County of Northumberland.

To

To the Author of the Second REPLY to all the Answers from the Castle.

WHEN a Scotchman says "what's your wills," before he gives an answer, I can attribute his question to his circumspection; but when, after a period sufficient for consideration, a *reply* without an *answer* appears, I must suppose the cause to proceed from a less favourable reason. Under the influence of this opinion, I shall hardly be justified in animadverting on a paper that contains nothing: however some attention is due, if not to the matter, at least to the labour of the performance; and that writer, who *only* endeavours to inform, ought not to be treated with neglect. When you tell us you "feel the liberal spirit of a gentleman," I cannot withhold my congratulations; but when you say that spirit prevents you from "enquiring into a character," that will bear the strictest examination, I doubt the truth of your assertion. You tell us (and with as much confidence as if your authority was decisive) that the Duke, as "a public man, "is never consulted, that he has deceived every party "with which he has been connected, and is declared "by his sovereign to be his most ungrateful subject." I will affirm, (and I appeal "even to the *London newspapers*" for the truth of my assertion) that, as a nobleman of the soundest judgment and the highest integrity, he is often consulted; that he has never been connected with any party, and therefore can have deceived none; and if he is declared by his sovereign to be his "most ungrateful subject," that it was *only* in a private conference between his Majesty and you, and ought to have remained a secret. When I recollect your quotation from the history of the minority, I am inclined to think you must have misunderstood his Majesty; for it is not incredulity to believe that Lord *Bute*, who enjoyed the confidence of his sovereign, would propose a man for first Lord of the Treasury, who was accounted by the King as his "most ungrateful subject." I wish you would consider that, though your anecdotes afford
entertainment,

entertainment, inconsistency will ever disgust. — You are of opinion, that proofs of the Duke's interference (previous to the meeting) have been adduced, which candour will readily admit." Though you allow that the Duke is "too artful" to have used the only methods by which he could interfere, you still are of that opinion. If you really are, the only inference is, that prejudice has triumphed over reason. In your own words, "I will appeal to the understanding of the freeholders, whether they can believe that Mr Forster, or Mr Charleston, would have taken upon them to solicit votes for Sir John Dalaval, without perfectly understanding his Grace's wishes," and that the Duke did not communicate his wishes in favour of Sir John, they are willing to testify upon oath. If you will not believe them, I beg to know what you consider as the test of truth.

We are told by *Junius* (who I perceive you have read with attention) that a man may be the bitterest enemy of his friend; and you have proved that it is not a paradox. It is the misfortune of Sir William Larraine to have experienced this hostile friendship. When I had occasion to examine his conduct, I made an ample allowance for the warmth of youth, and the violence of a new attachment. Regarding the dignity of his office, and the acknowledged integrity of his character, I was gentle when I might have been severe; and it is even now (with reluctance) you have compelled me to assert, that his ignorance of what he ought to have known is his only justification. Sir William was not ignorant that, in virtue of his office, he would have the honour to preside at the county meeting. He should have informed himself of all the duties of the chair, and he would then have known that one of them consisted in providing against the intrusion of every man that was not a freeholder. The motion for "dividing," if it had even come from Sir William, will not excuse his neglect, nor would have remedied it; for I must suppose that the same reasons which induced the mob to bellow *Middleton* and *Fenwick*, would have inclined them to "divide" in their favour. Are these

so loose and desultory charges?" Are they not rather incapable of either answer or evasion. I pity Sir *William*, but truth impels this discovery; and if I have wounded the feelings of an honest man, he may thank the indiscretion of his defender.

I thank you for your congratulations on my discovery, "that the sense of the meeting was so clear as to remove his Grace from every difficulty;" and I thank you too for your ingenuousness, in not even attempting to deny it. Nor am I less indebted to you for declining to reply to that part of the "Answer" which proves the determination of the Duke to have coincided with the sense of the county, and to have been the most probable method of procuring peace. The concurrence of great interests in favour of Sir *John Delaval*, you have affected to call a "combination," and when that is shewn to reflect the highest honour on his character, you then tell us, that "many of those interests" were taken by surprize. It has not occurred to you, that if "they were taken by surprize," the idea of a combination is absurd. There are needy authors, who never discharge a publication without having an answer ready for the press. You have refined upon this artifice, and brought a charge, and produced the answer in the same sentence. The general suffrage in favour of Lord *Algernon* is too apparent to be denied; but you tell us, it is meant only as a compliment to his father. If I had ventured to hint this, you would have reproached me with flattery. You are the warmest panegyrist of him, whom it is your meaning to abuse; and, not content with the common mode of panegyric, you have increased its effect by contrasting it with censure.

It is not difficult to discover your intention in reminding the Duke of *Northumberland* of his trial with Sir *Henry Grey*; it is the illiberal desire of perpetuating discord. You are again unfortunate; you have betrayed the meanness of your disposition, without affecting the character of the Duke. If he supposed his property was invaded, it was his duty to have recourse to the proper method of determination; and though the event was unpropitious, it was not disgraceful.

We

We are now told, that the paper, which, as you express it, "has made the galled horse wince," was not given as a list of gentlemen, avowed supporters of Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick*, but was expressly given as a list of gentlemen in opposition to the Duke in his attempt to ride the county. It is extraordinary, that, in a list of gentlemen in opposition to the Duke, the most respectable names should be the supporters of his son. If you continue thus inconsistent, the world will dispute to whose service you dedicate your labours; and you will be under the necessity of exhibiting that formidable name with which you have so often threatened us.

I will suggest nothing as to the means that must have been used to procure Mr *Forsler's* letter; I shall only observe, that it was a very proper one upon the occasion. It was necessary that the Duke's agents should be present to receive his orders; and if they were freeholders, (as I believe they all are) they had a right to be at the meeting. It would have been an act of indiscretion that might not have escaped your observation, if the Duke had suffered half the county to be canvassed before his agents could have known his inclinations.

I have never charged Sir *William Middleton* with "packing the meeting at *Morpeth*." I believe him incapable of so unfair a practice; but Sir *William* himself will acknowledge (what you have not denied) that a mob composed the majority of that meeting. Curiosity is a prevailing passion, and perhaps that alone attracted them, but we have yet to account for their unanimity. That the real sense of the county was in favour of Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Delaval*, is a truth which you have not controverted; and if you will name twenty respectable gentlemen, who attended your candidates to the Duke, I will be content to forfeit my credit with the public.

In a language peculiarly elegant, you ask, "with what face either the friends of Lord *Algernon Percy* or Sir *John Delaval* can take upon them to traduce a meeting, whose sanction they expressly borrow in their subsequent addresses to the public." They were

were not reduced to the necessity of procuring, or of "borrowing" the sanction of a mob. The sense of that part of the meeting which had any to express, was evidently in their favour; and it is the sanction of their approbation, which they use in their addresses to the freeholders.

Here I should have sheathed my pen, if I could have hazarded the displeasure of Mr *Greive*: he is introduced to my acquaintance, and to neglect him would be a studied insult. If he can convince me that he acts from principle, that he really believes his writings and harangues are conducive to the interest of his country, though I shall lament the error of his judgment, I can pardon the fury of his zeal. If I had been personally the enemy of Mr *Greive*, his misfortunes would have disarmed my resentment; nor could I have refused a tear of pity to the peculiarity of *his* fate, "the most splendid action of whose life"—is a defeat.

I have answered you with a degree of exactness which your performance does not deserve. If argument can produce conviction, our correspondence is at an end; but perhaps you possess the female vanity of having the last word, and will not so easily be silenced. I will not again offend my ear and my understanding with inharmonious periods and trifling arguments. If you mean, in future, to excite my attention, you must be less abusive, more elegant, and more convincing.

To satisfy the patriots who cannot bear the idea of interested attachments, I solemnly declare, that I never received a favour from either the Duke of *Northumberland* or Sir *John Delaval*; and so far from being a principal in the cause I espouse, in point of interest, I only exceed, by one vote, many of your good friends who lent their hands at *Morpeth*.

The A U T H O R

*Of the Answer to all the Charges brought against the
Duke of Northumberland, and the Friends of Lord
Algernon Percy, and Sir John Delaval.*

Northumberland, Sept. 2, 1774.

Occasional

Occasional ADDRESS to the combined LORDS, who are attempting to force MEMBERS on the County of Northumberland,

MY LORDS,

HAVING seen an attack made upon the free suffrage of *Northumberland*, by his Grace of *North-h—d*, in the late county meeting at *Morpeth*, on the 26th of *July*; and having since seen this attack of the Duke's seconded by some other Lords, as a soldier of liberty I step forth in defence of my country's freedom.

The university was my camp (where flourish the arts of civil life) where I studied for some years the municipal laws of *Britain* under that great master, Judge *Blackstone*. There I learnt—that our constitution is a commonwealth, with a king or queen at the head of it (the good of the whole being taken care of by the whole) governed by a variable code of laws, which are formed by the collective body of the nation.—Happily variable for this commercial country; this country surrounded with harbours and with ocean; opening the universe to our fleets as their field of action: Happily variable to all the various circumstances of new discoveries in arts—in sciences; of intercourse with new nations; new articles of commerce; new provinces peopled by us in different climes; new connections and alliances, or new wars with other powers; and other new occurrences of every mortal sort and earthly kind.—To all these different articles we can change and adapt, and suitably modify our variable code of laws: Whilst other nations are in general fixed to one unalterable body of law (the *Justinian* code) however unnatural to their respective climates or dispositions, or else are governed by their monarch's will.—Happy *Britain*! how pure thy establishment of legislation!

Bona si sua norint Patricij, agricola tui.

How hast thou been envied by the great *Montesquieu*, in his spirit of laws, and by every other better spirit of science in *France*, and the neighbouring nations?

For

For the purpose of altering this variable code of laws, the collective body have two houses of representation. These two houses are placed as a check upon each other, viz. The House of Lords, to prevent encroachments upon the royal prerogative; and the House of Commons, to prevent attacks upon the liberties of the people. Each *ex officio* keeping the political balance upon the poise.

For this purpose our excellent ancestors have calculated with most admirable skill; and in their wisdom have granted their monarch the prerogative of choosing his peers out of the wealthiest of the realm, and at the same time of wedding them to himself with titles, honours, dignities, and privileges for life and for ever.

But the representatives of the people are otherwise appointed. — Originally the people elected the guardians of their liberties every year.

Thus they kept a curb upon their representatives, and prevented their seduction by bribery or other evil influence. Thus their elections soon fixed on better men, if those they employed were guilty of a breach of office.

Hence it is proved unconstitutional, and dangerous to the commonwealth of the nation, in a Peer to interfere with the least influence in the election of the people's representatives. For this purpose there is a standing order of the House of Commons to forbid a Peer to be present upon the day of election; and of course he opposes that order by thrusting in his influence at any time.

Hence, as a corollary, it follows, that the sons or brothers, or uncles of Peers, are unfit persons to represent the people. For the influence of such near relations must ever hang over their heads, force them to lean to royalty, and to neglect the people.

In right of their large estates, the Peers of the realm have lordly appointments and privileges in the upper house. Let them keep to their station, and be therewith content. Their sons and brothers and uncles,

uncles, I know, are Commoners, but already proved unfit for the representation of the people: However, for their comfort, they have got honourable titles, and let them be therewith content. Let them not attempt to creep into the House of Commons. Let them keep genteeler company, and associate with their relations of the Upper House in relief time. How jealous would their fathers, their peerish brothers, and their nephews be, were the tribunes of the people to take a walk into the Upper House and assume their places there? Patience, Great Sirs! why so jealous? You to your own house, and we to ours.

What art, what rhetoric can any Peer of the realm make use of, to prove that he pays his brother, his son, or his uncle, a compliment, by getting him placed in the House of Commons? 'Tis a vicious hobby-horse, that must throw him either forwards, or drop him backwards, must of course dislodge him from the saddle of propriety: For, in such a department, he must either *ex officio* be undutiful to his father, inattentive to his brother or his nephew; or else on the other hand, he must lean to royalty, destroy the fine balance of our constitution, and be unnatural to his country. Cruel alternative!

How nice a point, how serious a concern, should be the election of our law-givers! The king is undisturbed by the people in the choice of his Peers; why should the people be interrupted in the choice of their representatives?

When the balance of government does preponderate, it becomes both Peers and Commons not only not to allow each other's scale to be made too heavy, but even to lighten, as it alters, each their respective scale, and faithfully to restore the poise. Thus the true *Lion* of the North, *Strathmore's* worthy Earl, throws into the other scale, and takes constitutionally from his own, that was growing too heavy by the the combined Lords of *Northumberland* deserting their station.

When his Grace of *N——th——d* sees the constitution of his country with a clearer eye, (for our nobility,

bility, when they affect the knowledge of all things, must be superficial, do not allow themselves time for digestion to be deep in any science;) when his Grace, from an honest pen becomes better informed, his heart must be bad indeed, if he do not alter his present plan.

I would fain be tender with his Grace of *N—d*, and would suppose him not thoroughly informed of the constitution of his country. But let me not hereby offend the Duke; for I will give up the point, if he declare himself thoroughly acquainted with it. But then let him remember the vital stab it must give to the constitution, to raise aristocracy upon the ruins of democracy; to set the people in warfare, in desperation with the House of Lords. Let him remember the fate of *Denmark* in the last century, when their Commons, rather than be lord-ridden, gave up their liberties to their King, and overturned the Lords and themselves in one general ruin. Let him also remember the menace of the chaste, republican bard, against

—————“*The man
That owes his greatness to his country's ruin!*”

Painful pre-eminence!—What does his Grace aim at? What is the utmost pitch of his ambition?

My borough of Berwick!—Are these the words, is this the language of a *British* Peer? His Grace has not four votes, has not one inch of land in *Berwick*. Sir *James L—th—r*'s follies were constitutional in comparison of these; for he is a Commoner.

It sounds almost as big as *our town of Berwick upon Tweed*.

We shall next hear of *my County of Northumberland*. As for the other combining Lords (I feel in sorrow for them!) their names will be swallowed up in the great whirlpool of ambition, and on the top nothing be left a-floating but his Grace.

My county of Northumberland!—Hold! ambitious Peer, for I can no longer call thee great!—'Tis ours: Its representation in the legislature is the people's. Our
free

free suffrage, lordly Sir, must in that point for ever give, resolute determination.

I am, my Lords,

Your Lordships' most obedient,

BRITANNICUS.

Occasional Address to the Electors of BRITAIN, and particularly of Northumberland.

Brother Electors,

WHEN I reflect upon the constitution of *Britain*, I am reminded of the great bulwark of this nation, our NAVY. Surely one of them has been the pattern for the other.

The tall masts are the House of Lords : the flag aloft is Majesty supported by the Lords : (Majesty gives execution to the affairs of a state ; so does the flag to a fleet :) But the grand base, the firm foundation of the lovely fabrick, the support of both peerage and royalty, is the body of the vessel, or the house of Commons, that opposes to the storm nothing but the hardy oak : Her timbers, her plank, her keel, her rudder, all are oak.

But, should the tall masts, those aspiring pines, those ambitious nobility of the forest, presume to blend themselves in the body of the vessel by placing here a plank of oak, and there a plank of fir ; how would the tumultuous waves of life burst in upon the softer plank, and with their rapid torrent sink the vessel in the depth of misery !

Rather let the oaks maintain their station ; and if the masts won't mind their duty, and be content with bearing sail, and being tricked with ribbons, and flags, and titles, and other ornaments and honours, let the honest tars, our brother *Britons*, those hearts of oaks, lay the axe to the root of the too ambitious wayward masts, tumble them in ruin overboard, and take to their oars.

A ship may sail without masts ; though, if they will attend to the duties of their station, she is with them a comelier and more effective machine.

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My brother electors of every rank, we are the acorns that rear the lovely oaks and place them in the body of the vessel ; let us contrive that the oaks of the house of Commons in future stand their ground, by choosing none but hardy plants, commoners the sons of commoners ; by keeping them unmixed, untutored with the influence of peers ; by electing such as have been trained up to *British* hardiment, to *British* freedom and to honour, not such as have learnt to bow the neck by the despotic principles of a *foreign* education ; by fixing on such as will not laugh honesty out of countenance, nor ride their brother citizens ; who will return a grateful harvest for the many benefits they have derived from this happy constitution of our's, under the patronage of which they also were born ; who will remember that their estates, their wives, their young maidens, their children, their laws, their religion, their liberties are not to be pillaged by paying idle compliments to the great. We must not, we will not be so blinded with that feather, greatness. The caprice of a single man is not to stand in competition with the happiness, the liberty of millions. That fame, we have acquired over the universe by our envied constitution, is not to be sported with and passed away in mistaken civility at an election. The election of law-givers is too serious a concern.

And here let me absolve all the tenants, agents, and dependents of his grace of *N—th—d*, of his grace of *P—th—d*, and of every other peer of the realm, from any inferior obligation, that (from an error in judgment) may prevent their attention to the first duties in life ; by informing them—That the two greatest ties upon us all—are God and our country ; all others are inferior considerations.

For we are to leave father and mother, and brother and sister, and landlord, and master, and patron, and even wives and children for our God and our country.

'Twas thus our great ancestors delivered down to us our excellent constitution. And, if the Duke of *N—th—d* persist in endeavouring to saddle us with his son, and a Sir John of his own election, I take the liberty

liberty to inform you—that you stand relieved from any obligation to him by promise, seduced from you with threats or otherwise; for your votes are due to the *sacred liberties of your country*; to the candidates, whom the general voice of your county has pronounced fittest to serve you in the next parliament.

One of these independent candidates has already served his country against her common enemy with honest manhood; for her he has often opposed his person to all the dangers of the embattled field; has ever approved himself of steady honour, and of social virtue; has ever been beloved by his corps, and by all who knew him; and has now hung up his arms and commenced the citizen. He is the very man of upright honesty to be depended on.

Your other independent candidate has been long known in civil life; social, humane, upright and honest.

As for Sir *John D——v——l*, if *he is* in the chace of greatness, let him not owe that greatness to his country's ruin. 'Tis true, some quainter eyes affirm that they have discovered a map of peerage in his face: We all see him *unconstitutionally* pinned to the sleeve of a peer; have marked his retinue; and have observed how he affects the society of greatness.

Give him rein! if he find himself big with the mighty purpose. But let him not prostitute the chaste embraces of a people's liberty, with the vicious, the wanton, the *unconstitutional* caprice of an overgrown peer.

Northumbria's sons have not yet bowed their necks to any servile yoke, nor will they ever, if I rightly know my brothers.

The relations of peers are unfit members for the house of Commons; for they must always be led by the influence of those peers; and peers must always lean to royalty. For it is constitutionally their duty and obligation; and their great privileges depend on royalty. A few exceptions do not destroy the validity of the general rule.

We know that sometimes a flow of wealth will make them affect a short-lived independence. But there

there comes another generation, squanders his father's riches, and overturns that independence. The young impoverished Peer then flies to his monarch (for he cannot fly to industrious commerce) to enable him to reimburse that squandered wealth. We have some living instances of this fatal truth.

Monarchs also find ways and means to cajole their richer peers into ambition and expence: and thus the King ever keeps his Lords in close dependence. A Lord Lieutenancy of *Ireland*, or a *French* embassy, exhausts a rich arrogant Peer, and tames his pride. A *West Indian* government heals the sores, and fills the empty pockets of a servile—titled genius, and plants him on his legs again.

Let the Peers lean constitutionally to their monarch: Let not the wings of regal prerogative be incorrectly clipped. There is a proper pitch that the royal bird should soar to. But, beyond that let an honest House of Commons curtail his flight, and nicely preserve the balance of government, that neither the scale of majesty nor of the people, be too heavy. Thus may we remain a happy and an envied nation.

Some further hints, my brother electors, I beg your acceptance of: Require of your members to get your rotten boroughs curtailed, and to get a fair representation of the people; to get large commercial towns, not little villages, not single houses, not *Down-ton*, not *Old Sarum*, represented.

To get the duration of your parliaments shortened, *restored to one year*; and that will put your representatives upon their mettle.

To get your elections by ballot; and that will give concealment to your honest choice; will keep your families in quiet bearing with each other, and remove all fever from the constitution; will also effectually purge away the remains, the dregs of bribery and corruption.

Require of your members to get the *Quebec* bill abolished; that very unnatural stroke of policy! Do we give freedom to our blacks, and force our white men to pine in chains? The springs of government must

must be very weak to have recourse to chains. Generous constitutional treatment will chain Britons and the colonies of Britons, better than links of iron, of popery, of superstition: And better a few free Britons than millions of slaves! I have admitted that, though it is a general rule that Peers must lean to royalty, yet there may be exceptions. Thus we have seen his Grace of N——d desert the Court, and fly to patriotism; and now again trying to ride the patriots. And we need only to step into our neighbouring county, Cumberland, to see another patriotic Duke playing the like game of desertion from courtier to patriot, and from patriot to courtier, assisting our patriot Duke in the dark attempt to rob us of our free suffrages at the next election.

Methinks such like desertion sounds like a cloak to spies: We all know that desertion has been so used. Thus, perhaps, the patriots in London were divided and thereby weakened. Persia always had her spies among the little republics of Greece, and weakened them by dissention when she could not by her arms. Our ministers are Persians, our patriotic clubs are Grecian republicks: Let them hereafter be united against the common enemy. The patriotic clubs of Britain, like the dictatorship of Rome, may be wanted in every age to purge its follies, and to heal the wounds given by vicious ministers to our constitution. Let them therefore perpetuate their establishment by volumes of record: Let them have their archives, and give the names of better spirits to after ages: Freedom loves,—is wedded to chaste Record's page. Celebrate the holy nuptials! There also let the villains that desert a generous cause at a time of need, be branded with eternal infamy: And let these volumes be rewards of public virtue, and punishments of public vice, by transmitting extraordinary characters of either stamp to later times; marking the first rise of each character in political life, its orbit, and its setting.

Brothers of Britain,
Let us be unanimous in despising the luxury, the bribes of our Persians, Their tables are covered with

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corruption, and their smiles are filled with deceit. Forget not that you have all a right to require of your members of parliament, a faithful and an honourable attention to your constitutional requests; for, whilst they are constitutional they deserve to be honoured; and when constitutional, the execution of them will do honour to your representatives.

My Brothers of Northumberland,

You are a respectable body of people. Your county is the best nursery of seamen in the nation. Your voice must have respect, must have honour paid to it. Never let a Peer direct your choice. Your free suffrage at elections must not (and if I know you right, my brothers, you will not allow it to) be taken from you.

May you ever enjoy your property and your religion in all the chastity of *British* liberty! and believe me ever

NORTHUMBERLAND,

Yours,

Sept. 1, 1774.

BRITANNICUS.

XXXVII.

To the independent Freeholders of the County of Durham.

AT your late meeting, you have been induced, by an unfortunate variety of concurrent circumstances, to agree to support Sir T. C——, as one of your representatives in Parliament; it may be proper, however, altho' I fear it is too late, to inform you of an important fact respecting his conduct, which comes immediately home to you as men, who affect to value the assertion of your just rights and privileges.

Sir T. C. (and I call upon him to deny it) did, in the most explicit manner, declare, *since* the county meeting at *Morpeth*, that he was engaged to support Lord A. Percy, and should therefore in the present situation give his vote and interest to the *D. of Northumberland only*; but the moment that your acquiescence contributed to fix him once more member for the county of *Durham*, he did not hesitate to deceive us, and sent off his agent with peremptory orders to every voter

voter for this county, over whom he might be supposed to have the least influence, with an express command to strain every nerve to promote the interest of Lord *A. Percy* and Sir *John H. Delaval*, and by that means to subdue our independent spirit.—I give you the fact, —you cannot but be aware of the consequences.

Northumberland, Sept. 8, 1774. A BYE STANDER.

XXXVIII.

To the independent FREEHOLDERS of the
County of NORTHUMBERLAND.

GENTLEMEN,

I Have already endeavoured to defend your cause against the base and malevolent attacks of all your enemies;—how successfully, must be submitted to your judgement. The most shameful combination that ever appeared in any county, has been formed to crush your independency, and to deprive you of your free choice of representatives. Every unfair practice has been adopted by the friends of the D. of *Northumberland* and Sir *John Delaval*.—No argument has been left short, no pretext has been unattempted to dazzle your senses, and impose upon your understandings. A band of mercenary writers has been let loose upon you, to create a confusion in your opinions; and, if possible, to shut up every avenue to conviction, by perverting fact, and labouring to perplex the plainest question.

When the meeting at *Morpeth* was misrepresented in the most false and illiberal manner, and the conduct of your amiable High Sheriff most unjustly impeached in the grossest terms, I cheerfully took up the pen to vindicate the truth, and furnish you with information; and to convince you that it was not my intention to mislead you, I made a voluntary tender of my name to authenticate any facts which might come in controversy before you.—I felt the importance of the subject, and therefore called upon our common adversaries to follow my example, that you might arrive at a more certain knowledge of the truth; and that in the discussion of a

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question in which you were so materially interested, you might be able to decide with precision on what authority you ought to rest your determination. It was with this view that I offered to "exhibit to you my *formidable* name;" for the name of any man, however humble in life, must be "*formidable*," when he fights under the banners of Truth and Reason. The writers, however, who have so *disinterestedly* stepped forward to support the Duke in his distress, have refused you that satisfaction. — In speculative questions, it may be unnecessary; but when the most palpable and impudent falsehoods are incessantly repeated, for the base purpose of deceiving you, I cannot help thinking that something more is requisite than a bare assertion, unsupported by any *name or authority whatever*.

But with all these disadvantages, truth has hitherto prevailed, and their writers are driven to a dull and uninteresting repetition of absurdities, which it were beneath a man of any talents to continue to refute. I am a plain man, and, (altho' as they are pleased to say, have "*studied Junius with attention*") when your freedom is at stake, even in my "*inharmonious periods*," am determined to persevere in grating harsh discord into the ears of ATTICUS. To your use therefore, and for his benefit, I dedicate the following *authentic* letter, the *original* of which is in my possession. The fact is interesting, and merits your most serious attention. You will please to observe, that this letter is dated THIRTEEN DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING AT MORTPETH; and comes from one of the bailiffs to his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, who is likewise deputy-clerk of the peace under Mr Collingwood Forster, steward of his Grace's courts, and whose *curious* and *extraordinary* declaration, on this very subject, (which he is "*ready to confirm by his solemn oath*") so impudently stares you in the face, in the front of every weekly newspaper. Now, let falsehood assert, and sophistry deny.

Sept. 5, 1774-

A BYESTANDER.

(COPY.)

(C O P Y)

S I R, Newcastle, JULY 13, 1774.

YOU having a freehold lying at Cullercoats, I therefore take the liberty of asking the favour of your vote and interest on behalf of Lord Algernon Percy and Sir John Hussey Delaval, at the next general election for the county of Northumberland; and as the wishes of those gentlemen are to know the inclination of every freeholder in the county as soon as convenient, I shall therefore esteem it as a particular favour, if you will give me an answer to this letter as soon as possible.

I am, Sir,

To Your most obedient Servant,

Mr _____ (Signed) J. FRENCH.

at _____

XXXIX.

NEWCASTLE, Sept. 12, 1774.

AN address to the independent freeholders of the county of Northumberland, having been inserted in the Newcastle Chronicle of Saturday last, subjoining a copy of a letter from me to a freeholder of Northumberland, soliciting his vote and interest on behalf of Lord Algernon Percy and Sir John Hussey Delaval, which is supposed to have been wrote by me thirteen days before the general meeting at Morpeth, I hope I shall stand excused in stating the fact respecting that application. The letter dated July 13, 1774, of which a copy has been laid before the public, was wrote by me **SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING AT MORPETH**, to wit, on or about the thirteenth day of August last, and was addressed to Mr John Archbold at Morpeth, and was delivered to him on or about the 14th day of August last: And I do most solemnly declare, that I did not previous to the general meeting at Morpeth, directly or indirectly, solicit the vote or interest of the said John Archbold, or of any other per-

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son or persons, on behalf of Lord *Algernon Percy*, or Sir *John Hussey Delaval*, jointly or separately, by letter or otherwise; and that I was not, previous to that meeting, requested by the said candidates, or any person on their account, to solicit any freeholder for his vote or interest.

JOHN FRENCH.

MORPETH, Sept. 13, 1774.

A LETTER from Mr *John French* to a freeholder in *Northumberland*, having been inserted in the *Newcastle Chronicle* of *Saturday* last, in which he solicits his vote and interest on behalf of Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Hussey Delaval*, at the next general election for the county of *Northumberland*; and the author of the paper commenting upon it, signed "A Byestander," having from the date of that letter inferred, that the application made by Mr *French* was thirteen days before the meeting at *Morpeth*, I think it necessary to undeceive the public in that particular, by assuring them, that that letter was addressed by Mr *French* to me, and that I did not receive it before the 14th of *August* last, soon after which time I shewed it to Mr *Heppel*, of *Thornton*, who desired to have it. In justice to Mr *French* I must also declare, that though I was with him for some time on the morning of the day of the general meeting at *Morpeth*, he did not then, or at any time previous to that meeting, apply to me for my vote and interest. — Under the assurance I have that Mr *French's* said letter to me was read at the meeting of Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* and their friends, at *Morpeth*, on the 5th inst. and by them or their committee ordered to be published, I cannot resist complaining of their publishing a private letter to me without my consent, and their drawing the inference of the application being made to me by Mr *French* thirteen days previous to the general meeting, which inference they did know, or by applying to me whilst they were at *Morpeth*, where I reside and then was, might have known was not founded in truth; and this incivility was the less

less to be expected, as I had intimated to Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* my intention to support them.

JOHN ARCHBOLD.

XL.

To My BROTHER FREEHOLDERS.

THE Original Letter from Mr *John French*, to *John Archbold*, of *Morpeth*, is safe in my possession; and as it is not a private letter, but contains only matter which concerns every freeholder in this great county, who wishes to assert his freedom of election, it shall remain there for the inspection of every gentleman who chooses to examine it.—The words and figures JOHN FRENCH, and JULY 13, 1774, will there be found in fair and legible characters.

NEWCASTLE,

GEO. GREIVE.

September 16, 1774.

I JOHN HENDERSON, of *Morpeth*, in the county of *Northumberland*, do declare, That I read a letter from Mr JOHN FRENCH, to Mr JOHN ARCHBOLD, of this town, in the house of the said *John Archbold*, dated JULY 13, 1774, requesting his vote and interest for Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Hussey Delaval* (which has since appeared in the public papers) a few days after the meeting of the freeholders at *Morpeth*. The day of the month I cannot precisely determine, but am very certain, that it was many days before the 13th of August; in particular, am positive that I saw the said letter before the assizes at Newcastle.

MORPETH,

(Signed.)

Sept. 15, 1774.

JONH HENDERSON.

I ROBERT SWAN, of *Morpeth*, have seen and read a letter from Mr *John French* to Mr *John Archbold*, of this town, dated JULY 13, 1774, requesting his vote and interest for Ld *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Huxley Delaval*, which is now in the possession of Mr *George Greive*, and which has been published in the *Newcastle Chronicle*; and do declare, that Mr *John Archbold* shewed me a letter to the same purport, from the said *John French*, containing a request of his vote and interest for the above gentlemen, *before the meeting at Morpeth on the 26th of July*:—And further declare, that I heard Mr *John Archbold*, at that time express himself in words to the following effect:—*That Mr French need ask no votes of him, for he had not used him so well as to deserve any.*

MORPETH,

(Signed)

September 15, 1774.

ROBERT SWAN.

THE END.

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Complete Collection, &c.

To the Independent Freeholders of the County of
Northumberland.

N U M B. XLI.

***** JOHN FRENCH, of the town and
county of Newcastle upon Tyne, Gentleman,
do hereby declare, that the letter from
me to Mr John Archbold, of Morpeth,
(which was published in the Newcastle
Chronicle of the 10th of September inst. and
mentioned in an address from Mr George Greive to his
brother freeholders, and in the several declarations of
Messrs John Henderson and Robert Swan, also published
in the Newcastle Chronicle of the 17th of Sept. inst.) was
written by me the said John French, upon Saturday the
13th day of August last past, and not before, and di-
rected by me to Mr John Archbold, at Morpeth; and
that the same was by mere mistake dated July instead of
August: And I do further declare, that the same letter
was, on the said 13th day of August, delivered by me
into the hands of Mr George Kent, one of my clerks,
with directions to forward the same to the said John
Archbold: And I am ready to make oath of the truth of
the above facts, whenever required by any gentleman of
character. Dated at Newcastle upon Tyne, the 20th day
of September, 1774.

JOHN FRENCH.

I GEORGE KENT, clerk to Mr John French, of
Newcastle upon Tyne, do hereby declare, That on Satur-
day the 13th day of August last I did receive from the
M hands

hands of the said *John French* a letter, by him directed to Mr *John Archbold*, at *Morpeth*, and that on the evening of that day I did deliver the same letter to Mr *Robert Milburne*, of *Morpeth*, butcher, who was then in *Newcastle* aforesaid, to be by him delivered to the said *John Archbold*; and am ready to confirm the same by affidavit, when required. Witness my hand this 20th day of *September*, 1774.

GEORGE KENT.

I ROBERT MILBURNE, of *Morpeth*, in the county of *Northumberland*, do declare, That on the evening of *Saturday* the 13th day of *August* last, I did, at the town of *Newcastle upon Tyne*, receive from the hand of Mr *George Kent*, clerk to Mr *John French* of that place, a letter directed to Mr *John Archbold*, at *Morpeth*, and that I did actually deliver and leave the same letter at the dwelling-house of the said *John Archbold*, upon the morning of *Sunday* the 14th day of *August* last; of which I am ready to make oath. Witness my hand, at *Morpeth*, this 20th day of *Sept.* 1774.

ROBERT MILBURNE.

I JOHN ARCHBOLD, of *Morpeth*, in the county of *Northumberland*, do hereby declare, That I did on *Sunday* the 14th day of *August* last, and not before, receive a letter from Mr *John French*, of *Newcastle*, soliciting my vote and interest on behalf of Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Hussy Delaval*, and which is the same letter published in the *Newcastle Chronicle* of the 10th inst. and mentioned in the address of Mr *G. Greive* to his brother freeholders, and also in the several declarations of *John Henderson* and *Robt Swan*, published in the *Newcastle Chronicle* of the 17th day of *Sept.* inst. — And I do further declare, that the said Mr *French* did not, before the general meeting at *Morpeth*, nor before the said 13th day of *August*, directly or indirectly, by letter or otherwise, solicit my vote or interest on behalf of *Ld A. Percy* and Sir *John Hussy Delaval*, or either of them; and to the truth of all which I am ready to make oath, when thereunto requested. Given under my hand this 20th day of *Sept.* 1774.

JOHN ARCHBOLD.

I EDWARD LAWSON, of *Morpeth*, in the county of *Northumberland*, Gentleman, do hereby declare, That some time between the 17th and 20th days of *August* last past, I did, at the request of Mr *J. French*, of *Newcastle*, apply to Mr *John Archbold*, of *Morpeth*, for his votes in favour of Lord *Algernon Percy*, and Sir *John Hussey Delaval*, and that the said *John Archbold* then told me, that as Mr *French* shook hands with him on the day of the general meeting at *Morpeth*, and did not then ask his votes, that he had since promised his votes to Sir *Wm Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick*, or used words to that or the like effect; of which I am ready to make oath, when thereunto required. Dated at *Morpeth*, this 20th day of *Sept.* 1774.

EDW. LAWSON.

XLII.

To the independent FREEHOLDERS of the
County of NORTHUMBERLAND.

GENTLEMEN,

MR *French* has again taken the field with a fresh levy of recruits, but as their discipline is something like Mr *Bayes's* light troop, their manœuvres will prove as entertaining.—He has, however, got his brother agent and attorney, Mr *Edward Lawson*, to bring up the rear of this ridiculous reinforcement.—I have just read their additional declarations, which are very improperly addressed to you.—These gentlemen should have dedicated their performances to the dependent freeholders of *Warkworth* and *Rothbury*, who have had the honour of dining with the Duke, and have drank as deep of his punch as of his promises—Yet I do not wonder at Mr *French's* zeal, for upon the first appearance of the letter, the Castle was in an uproar; Coll. *Forster* himself was alarmed at the detection, and the unlucky writer was sent for;—no less than their master's honour was at stake: how shall we wonder then at any defence which their industry may set up to save him? It is true that I have not the same inducement with these gentlemen, but my zeal to serve you shall
be

be equal, and unremitted ; and altho' my motives are not so interested, the service in which I am engaged, is at least as honourable.—You, gentlemen, have a right to truth.—I will endeavour, therefore, shortly, to pass in review before you, the present state of the transaction :—The paper which is now in circulation, adorned with the names of Messrs *John French*, *Geo. Kent*, *Robt. Milburn*, *John Archbold*, and *Edward Lawson*, contains, in my opinion, no one fact which has the least tendency to strengthen the former declarations of *Mr French* and *Mr Archbold*. The first and most important fact is the letter in *Mr G. Greive's* possession, which is not a common, printed letter, but in *Mr French's* own hand-writing, dated the 13th of *July*, 1774, which he has seen, and acknowledged to be authentic.—He tells you now indeed “that it was by a mere mistake dated *July* instead of *August*.” A man of *Mr French's* eminent and extensive business tells you so, notwithstanding this was in the middle of the month, and the date has since appeared to be of the greatest moment ; and to corroborate this assertion, he calls in *Mr Geo. Kent*, his clerk, and *Robert Milburn*, who say nothing more than that the former delivered a letter from his master to *Milburn*, who conveyed it to *Archbold*.

These gentlemen shall never be called upon to swear. They may have delivered one hundred letters from *Mr French*, the Attorney, to his client, *Mr Archbold*, for they have long been connected together ; that unfortunate man is a mere machine in this business, and every intelligent person in *Morpeth* can account for his proceedings. In the train of names, however, which the Duke's bailiff has brought forward to support him, *Mr Edward Lawson* makes a most singular appearance ; he declares “that some time between the 17th and 20th days of *August* last past, he did at the request of *Mr John French*, of *Newcastle*, apply to *Mr John Archbold*, for his votes in favour of *Lord Algernon Percy* and *Sir John Hussey Delaval* ; and that the said *John Archbold* then told him, that as *Mr French* shook hands with him, on the day of the general meeting at *Morpeth*, and did not then ask his votes, that he had since promised
his

his votes to Sir *Wm Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick*, or used words to that or the like effect, of which he (too) is ready to make oath."

Two circumstances strike me, gentlemen, in this declaration.—If Mr *French* wrote the letter in dispute, soliciting *Archbold's* votes on the 13th of August, as he pretends, what necessity was there for Mr *Lawson's* application to *Archbold* on behalf of *French*, between the 17th and 20th : Again, let us observe *Archbold's* answer to *Lawson*, "that as Mr *French* shook hands with him on the day of the meeting, and did not ask his votes, he had disposed of them ;" but he says not a syllable of a letter from *French* on the 13th, which was only two or three days before *Lawson* asked him.

But the assertions of Mr *French* and Mr *Archbold* stand already contradicted in the most explicit terms, by the evidence of two of *Archbold's* acquaintances, who were frequently with him, and had therefore the best opportunity of coming at the fact ;—so that the question in that respect still lies, as it must always do, in the same narrow compass :—hitherto there have fortunately been no oaths, and as things are at present situated, I think, in truth, it is very tender ground.—

"Nay look not thus on me, and stare,

"Doubting the certainty—to swear

"In such a case I should be loth,

"But *Perry Cust* may take his oath."

As the Duke, however, seems to have a passion for publications of this sort, and seizes every opportunity of pushing his friends forward in print, from *Coll. Forster* to Mr *Edward Lawson*—I am at all times ready to aid his wishes, and will contribute to waft them into public notice. For the amusement of the ensuing week, therefore, I subjoin the following short history of TWO LETTERS from Mr *French* to Mr *Archbold*, from which it will appear that *Milburn* and *Kent* have indeed spoken the truth ; but it shall be my business, gentlemen, as it is my duty, to give you the whole truth.—I am superior to any intension of misleading you, nor

will

will I ever attempt to impose on you, my brother Freeholders, as a truth, what I do not, myself at least, most cordially credit.

Sept. 23, 1774.

A BYESTANDER.

I JOHN LIDDELL, Schoolmaster, of Morpeth, declare, that by the desire of Mr John Archbold, of this town, I wrote a letter for him to Mr John French, of Newcastle, on Sunday the 14th of August, on the particular business of Mr John Archbold, but which had no relation to any election matters, nor contained one single word on that subject.

(Signed)

JOHN LIDDELL.

Morpeth, Sept. 22, 1774.

The 14th of August, was the very day on which Milburn delivered French's letter to Archbold.

I EDWARD CHALLONER, of Morpeth, declare, that I was present in this town, on Wednesday the 14th of September, 1774, with Mr John Bulman, Mr Joseph Clark, and Mr Robert Milburn, of this town; when Mr Milburn said, he had carried TWO LETTERS from Mr John French to Mr John Archbold, the one about 8 or 9 weeks, and the other about a month before that day, the first of which, upon calculation, appears to have been carried by the said Robert Milburn to Mr John Archbold on or about the 13th of July.

(Signed)

EDW. CHALLONER.

Morpeth, Sept. 22, 1774.

I JOHN BULMAN, of Morpeth, gentleman, declare, that I was present with Mr Thomas Meggison, of London, Mr Edward Challoner, Mr Joseph Clark, and Mr Robert Milburn, of Morpeth, on Wednesday the 14th of September, 1774; when Mr Milburn made the declaration on the subject of the TWO LETTERS which he had carried to Mr John Archbold from Mr John French, which is faithfully and exactly recited above by Mr Challoner.

(Signed)

JOHN BULMAN.

Morpeth, Sept. 22, 1774.

Mr JOSEPH CLARK is now absent on business, but I am certain from what he has repeatedly said to me on this subject, that he will be ready to confirm the above account of Mr *Challoner* and Mr *John Bulman*.

(Signed)

EDW. NEWTON.

Morpeth, Sept. 22, 1774.

XLIII.

To the Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

IF the arguments of the *Byestander* had equalled the importance of his language, I might have claimed some merit from his defeat: but the victory is too contemptible for a triumph.

When the strength of his reasoning was opposed by sophistry and evasion, it would have been a work of credit to himself, and service to his cause, to have unravelled and exposed the weakness of such arguments—but that was a drudgery below the dignity of the *Byestander*, and unworthy the attempt of a man of any talents. The modesty of this excuse will never be denied him, but few, I believe, will subscribe to its insufficiency.

But this is only one proof of his desperate situation; he has not only declined the controversy, but has taken refuge in scurrility, the ultimate resource of detected impotence. Unable to advance even the shadow of an answer, he has nothing to offer you but his name, and modestly assumes a merit in offering to do, what there would be none in doing. Does he imagine there is a poison in my name to infect veracity, or a charm in his to convert falshood into truth? If he does not, what is his meaning? But even in the apparent openness of his offer he is disingenuous, and is not so indifferent to his literary fame, as to sign his name to inconsistent and confuted arguments.

I will remind you of the most important truths that have already been proved, and then enquire into an act that seems to merit your most serious consideration. It has been shewn you, that the Duke of *Northumberland* did not interfere in favour of Sir *John Lubbock* before the

the meeting at *Morpeth*; that his determination coincided with the sense of the county, and was the most probable method of procuring peace; and that the idea of a combination to obtrude two members on the county is absurd.

When controversies are conducted with moderation, they entertain without offending the public; but when decency and common sense are outraged, and the very liberal allowances to the heat of a party are exceeded, they then become offensive to the world, and are no longer justifiable.

An attempt has lately been made to impeach the honour of a Duke, the veracity of a man of business, and to impose on the honest simplicity of the freeholders. Two months has elapsed since the meeting at *Morpeth*, and the charge against the Duke of *Northumberland*, of interfering for Sir *John Delaval* before that meeting, remained wholly unsupported. This alone to a reasonable and candid man would have produced conviction, for if the Duke had really interfered, a multitude of instances might have been produced: The charge was directly levelled at the honour of his Grace, and therefore was to be justified by having at least the appearance of some foundation; but even that was not obtainable, and the attempt has established the innocence of the Duke, and betray'd the illiberality of his accusers. The plain facts are as follow: To support the charge against the Duke, a letter, dated July 13, addressed by Mr *French* to *Archbold*, requesting his vote and interest for Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Delaval*, is handed to the public, and attended with some circumstances that require explanation. The letter was inveigled from Mr *Archbold*, and published without his consent or knowledge. It will be necessary for the *Byestander*, and the committee at *Morpeth* (if they likewise were privy to the transaction) to justify the publication of a private letter without the consent or knowledge of the gentleman to whom it was addressed. But the matter will not rest there, they must then acquaint us with their reasons: Mr *Archbold* is a warm friend to Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick*, and would have been happy

to have established a charge so much to the advantage of his party. What reason can be urged why he was not applied to? He lives in the town of *Morpeth*, and almost within the hearing of the debates of the committee. If we are favoured with no satisfactory reason, are we not justified in supposing that the publishers of the letter were conscious that their applying to Mr *Archbold* would have produced an explanation, that must have prevented their temporary imposition on the public? This is a fair inference from an acknowledged fact. I will rest here for a moment, and contemplate the folly as well as the meanness of this transaction; the publication of Mr *Archbold's* letter, without his consent, would naturally create suspicion, and that suspicion must of course be followed by a strict examination into the facts. This has happened, and the result has reflected everlasting disgrace on the actors in this poultry business. To commit an act which cannot be justified, in order to effect what cannot otherwise be accomplished, is not very unusual; but to add to the meanness of an action the certainty of detection, and the impossibility of its answering the end for which it was intended, is absurd beyond every name of absurdity.

Thus the matter stood before the declarations of Mr *French* and Mr *Archbold*; when these appeared the public was satisfied, and every man in the county thoroughly convinced that the letter in question was not written till after the meeting at *Morpeth*. This is a fatal blow, and destroyed a plan from which much was expected; but lively geniuses are never without resources, and recourse was had to the assistance of Mr *John Henderson* and Mr *Robert Swan*. As these gentlemen are not well known in the world, the formality of an introduction was thought necessary, and Mr *George Greive* very generously stepped forth, to procure, by the sanction of his own name, a proper attention to his friends. Mr *Greive* tells us, that Mr *French's* letter to Mr *Archbold* is now in his possession, and is not a private letter. I believe all people are satisfied that it is not *now* a private letter, but that it ought not to have been published without Mr *Archbold's* consent, will hardly be disputed.

The most minute circumstances that relate to great events are interesting; and it was an evidence of Mr *Greive's* judgement to inform us, that the words and figures, *John French*, and *July 13, 1774*, will be found in the letter 'in fair and legible characters;' but he should have told us too, what he well knew, that it was dated *July* by mistake, instead of *August*; and then his discovery of the fair and legible characters, (unless he supposes himself suspected of forgery) will only prove Mr *French's* skill in penmanship.

Mr *John Henderson*, in order to prove that the letter was written before the meeting at *Morpeth*, declares that he read the letter a few days after it.

Mr *Robert Swan** is not so communicative; he only tells us he saw a letter; but by his artful manner of expressing his declaration, would have us believe that he saw the letter before the meeting at *Morpeth*, on the 26th of *July*, which he really does not declare. This is an ingenious artifice; and though perhaps it may be within the conscience, it is beyond the capacity of a *Sheriff Bailiff*.

These, gentlemen, are points of fact which can neither be strengthened nor confuted by argument.— You will judge of the conclusions; the whole has been communicated to you in the plainest and most intelligible language I was master of. The matter itself is now settled, and the declarations of Mr *French* and Mr *Archbold* are established by a train of proofs, which clearly shew that the letter was not written, nor any application made, previous to the meeting at *Morpeth*. The Duke of *Northumberland* owes many obligations to the *Byestander*, but in this instance he is particularly obliged to him. If his Grace had really interfered in favour of Sir *John Delaval*, before the meeting at *Morpeth*, a multitude of proofs might have been exhibited; but when one instance is attempted, and that clearly in-

* This gentleman is a Sheriff's bailiff. The patriot friends of Mr *Greive* will surely be surprized to find him in the company of a man, whose profession does not usually convey to us the idea of liberty.

ineffectual, it is beyond the possibility of a doubt that there was no such interference.

When an attempt is made to deceive the public, detection is by no means a sufficient reparation. In this instance the intention was to impose on the honest simplicity of the freeholders, and it was aggravated by the highest insult to their understandings. Some satisfaction is expected;—if the *Byestander* conducted this reputable affair, from him alone an acknowledgement is demanded;—but if the Committee are involved in the infamy of the act, it is necessary they should join in the reparation.

The AUTHOR of the Answer to all the Charges brought against the Duke of Northumberland, and the Friends of Lord Algernon Percy, and Sir John Delaval.

XLIV.

To the Independent Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

AFTER Mr *Saint's* prefs had groaned for many days, and with significant shrugs, oaths, and inuendoes, was pronounced by those profound political midwives, Mr *Lowes*, and Mr *Justice Charleton*, to be in labour, out pops a trifling, but most elaborate performance, under the pompous signature of “the Author of the answer to all the charges.” I had indeed dismissed the correspondence of this writer with the contempt which the public seemed to think was only due to his productions; and had determined to confine myself to facts which appeared to me more interesting to you, and much more to the present purpose, than a dull controversy about words or even the “literary fame, or inharmonious periods of your humble servant the *Byestander*.” But I find that he is resolved by his *impudence* to attract an attention which his arrogant and laboured performances have never merited; and which is patrons at least (for he is anonymous) shall have ample reason to repent.

To

To save you the trouble of comparing the facts and arguments which are now in question between us,—I think I shall be able to shew you at once the folly and infamy of his assertions; and convince you with what propriety he can now so insolently boast of “victory” or “triumph.”—I will here for once borrow a wit-ticism from a gentleman* to whom I would not wish often to be indebted for good things; but I will take care to apply it with a little more decency and justice:—When the bells of *Newcastle* were proclaiming aloud the glorious victory of the freemen, he sneeringly observed, “that their conduct was not unlike the King of *Prussia*’s, who always fired his guns, and sung *Te Deum* after a defeat!”

The writer sets out, forsooth, with a declamation against *scurrility*, which is truly laughable.—To answer this, we need only refer to the *Faithful Account*, the fruitful parent of the paper war, and to this gentleman’s own writings. We shall there see ridicule, abuse, and falshood alternately and unprovokedly made use of to serve the purposes of party; and matters introduced to vilify gentlemen, which were perfectly foreign to the present contest, and with a degree of rancour too as base as it was unparalleled. The *Byestander* has never been *anonymous*; and it will require more than the “strength of this author’s reasoning” to convince the freeholders, that where characters are thus at stake, and facts of importance are disputed, a superior degree of credit is not due to that man, who lurks not in the dark recesses of a printing-office, but with the spirit of a man and a gentleman, declares himself ready to support the truth in person, and risks his honest fame on the fairness of his proceedings.

There is a “poison” in his anonymous productions to which *perhaps* the name of this author might prove an antidote;—for we should then know how far he ought to have any “credit with the public.” And though he *solemnly*† declares that he never received a
favour

* Sir M. W. R.—y.

† A favourite expression of this party.—What is their idea of Solemnity?

favour from either the Duke or Sir John Delaval," they might at length know to whom they were indebted for assistance; and would be able, at some future day, to make him a proper recompence for his generous sacrifice of truth, honour, and decency in their defence. I shall now proceed to those important truths, which he tells you "have already been proved;" but I am apt to think that the truths he means have not yet been proved, gentlemen, to your satisfaction. If, indeed, "it had been shewn you, that the Duke of Northumberland did not interfere in favour of Sir John Delaval; that his determination coincided with the sense of the county, and was the most probable means of procuring peace; and that *the idea of a combination to obtrude two members on the county was absurd,*" the controversy was clearly at an end. But we are not yet arrived at that state of stupidity. There never was a grosser insult offered to the plain understanding of a rational being—the *idea of a combination* absurd!—As well might his ingenuity have called it *impossible*: But the whole of that period, in scholastic language, (for I see he has been at school) is nothing but a *gratis dictum*. My contempt, I perceive, has made him haughty; but he shall not long have cause of exultation. I know that the Duke has interfered for Sir John, as far as his cunning would permit him; and have the satisfaction to find in my intercourse with you, gentlemen, that Mr French's letter is not the only fact which has determined your conduct; "a multitude of instances might be produced," if necessary;—applications from other agents by letter, are not wanting, notwithstanding their industry to suppress them since the alarm; and Mr Dixon, Col. Grey, and Mr Greive have direct and ample evidence of an application by one of their principal agents for the Duke's son and Sir John Delaval, before the meeting at Morpeth. But it is unnecessary to descend to more particular proofs of a fact, the general belief of which bids fair to ruin the Duke's interest in the county, and to overturn all the extensive plans of his unbounded ambition.

Were it so clearly proved, as this writer's vanity presumes, that the great Man never interfered, how shall

we,

we, with any shew of reason, account for that respectable association which appears in support of the other candidates, to recal the Duke to the memory of moderation. But "his determination, it seems, coincided with the sense of the county."—This is certainly a most curious paradox; when we are at this moment in the midst of a contest; and the sense of the county can only be known by the event of the election. But this writer has departed in almost every instance from the truth, and is of course bewildered in absurdity and contradiction.

The author next gives us a rhapsody on decency, and the moderation with which controversies should be conducted. I could almost imagine that I heard these words issue from the chaste lips of Mr *William Lowes*, when, in the absence of the chairman, he so pathetically lisps out his charge to the Grand Jury at a Quarter Sessions; or when in the market-place at *Hexham*, in answer to a charge of having uttered a most shameful and injurious falsehood of Sir *William Middleton*, he with lutestring words and smirking visage, meanly attempts to parry the accusation by unmeaning professions of his friendship, and warm wishes for that gentleman.—

When "truth is outraged," and *such men* are labouring to enslave us, away with that moderation they wish for! The peace of a county is too often synonymous for slavery and blindness; and *moderation* consists in a passive tameness under imposition.

He lays great stress upon 'the honour of a Duke, and the *veracity* of a man of business.' It is with him sacrilege to impeach the one, and criminal to dispute the other.—No rank or situation can raise *some men* above mean and unworthy actions; and when facts contradict the assertions "of a man of business," what scruple should we entertain of calling his *veracity* in question.

I am not of that delicate composition, yet I should be sorry to furnish an uneasy moment to an honest man.—The wish of my heart is to be useful to my country, and to conduct myself, in life, with honour and activity.—I will never impose, gentlemen, on what this author *very civilly* calls your '*honest simplicity*'; and I
trust

trust that my reputation is no bad pledge for the purity of my intentions.

I will now join issue with the author on the particular facts respecting Mr *French's* letter, which are not already stated in my address of yesterday ; but I think by this time, that even *his credulity* is staggered ; and that he will own he has already received from the *Byestander*, who is not ashamed to own he "conducted this reputable affair," a "satisfaction," "reparation", and "acknowledgement," equal to his most sanguine wishes and *expectations*, and far beyond what his saucy spirit would have ever prompted his insolence to demand.

To talk of this celebrated production as a *private letter*, is indeed the '*ultimate resource of detected impotence.*' Mrs *Archbold* is a pretty woman, and complains too that her husband's affairs should be exposed ; and as there is some reason to believe this writer is a young man, and not indifferent to the fair sex, I will leave them to console together. From their sympathy Mr *Archbold*, at least, may derive some consolation.

The author says, That the '*letter was inveigled from Mr Archbold.*' Before he had advanced this position, he should have consulted his dictionary and Mr *Heppell* ; the first would have informed him that to *inveigle a letter* is not grammar, and from Mr *Heppell*, a man of unfulfilled reputation, he would have learnt that Mr *Archbold* shewed it to him, and when he offered to return it, refused to receive the letter, expressly saying, that it would be better in his hands.—Here then it had been happy for our author to have *sheathed his pen*, for the letter was not *inveigled* from Mr *Archbold*.

Sir *Wm Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* are indebted, no doubt, to Mr *Archbold* for his '*warmth of friendship and his votes ;*' but it should not be forgotten that he is Mr *French's client*.—It is not for me, gentlemen, to paint his situation to you ; nor is it necessary to assign the *motives of his present conduct* : But, I must observe, that Mr *French* himself always entertained such an opinion of his client, as never to quit hopes of tempting him to retract his promise.

To

To all the reflections which this writer and *Archbold*, by Mr *French*'s direction, throw out on the Committee, I shall answer shortly, that it is in truth 'a poultry business.' Mr *Greive* shewed Mr *French* the letter, and told him at the same time, that it was by accident only that it was not published the week before the committee met at *Morpeth*; that it had been delivered to him by a gentleman who had resolved to publish it; and that he took it into the room where the committee then were, and handed it to them; but that out of tenderness to Mr *French*, lest it might hurt him at the *Castle*, Mr *Bigge* and other gentlemen hinted, that if the letter was published, it would not be improper to exculpate Mr *French* from any idea of treachery in giving it up.—Mr *French* thanked him for his information, and said he would take the earliest opportunity of waiting upon these gentlemen to tell them his story and undeceive them.—Now mark, gentlemen, the subsequent proceeding; the next step is to draw up a political declaration for Mr *Archbold*, which he readily signs, full of invectives against Sir *Wm Middleton* and his friends, insinuating the possibility of losing his votes and interest. Nor did this content them:—A letter was framed for *Archbold*, full of artificial bad spelling, to give it the air of authenticity, and sent to *Coll. Forster* for his approbation.

We see by the declaration of the school-master, that '*Archbold*'s skill in penmanship,' is not equal to Mr *French*'s: But the worthy Mr *Forster* could repair every defect. The letter is by him sent express to Sir *Wm Middleton*, at *Belsay*, and the words near *Morpeth* are in his hand-writing. It is a most impertinent letter, abounding with spleen and rancour, and could not fail therefore of proving a delicious morsel to the depraved appetite of that *debauchee* in politics.—But to set the matter of the committee in a clear light, I feel so strongly for the noble cause in which we are engaged, that with all my esteem for the gentlemen who compose it, and my respect for the situation in which they stand, so far from receiving their direction on that head, I would not have suppressed this letter even at
their

their request.—I held it to be an interesting fact *most clearly ascertained*, and had no reason to dispute the date. There appeared to me no necessity to send for *Archbold*; I knew him not, nor concerned myself about his place of residence.—Besides, that I never doubted *Mr French's* accuracy in a profession of which *correctness* is the very life and essence.

To reason thus upon the letter was certainly, 'a fair inference from an acknowledged fact!' This writer next consults his own base, or credulous disposition, and very roundly asserts that, '*Mr Greive well knew that it was dated July by mistake, instead of August.*' I will answer for *Mr Greive* that he will give any man the *lie direct* who tells him so.—*Mr French*, indeed, has taken infinite pains to wheedle him into this confession, on the score of private intimacy and acquaintance; and it was but a week ago that *Mr Lodge*, of *London*, (a gentleman for whom he has always had a very high respect) deceived, no doubt, into a belief of *the mistake*, addressed *Mr Greive* in the same stile to obtain such a declaration; and this under the specious idea of a friendly explanation, *one Murray*, (*Mr Gibson's* clerk) was introduced into the company to make remarks, and catch at every unguarded expression. But the veil was too thin; and he must have been young indeed, to have been so easily entrapped.

He began with *discarding Mr Murray*, and ended by declaring that, with every disposition to think well of *Mr French*, his reason compelled him to believe the fact as he had stated it.----*Mr Newton*, *Mr Clark*, *Mr Lodge*, and even *Archbold*, can authenticate this curious anecdote. When such men as *Mr Greive* are to be dealt with, these barefaced and impudent falsehoods are of no avail.—Those gentlemen (and it is fortunate for *Mr Greive* that they were present) will do him justice, and can inform you *how* he treated a question of that tendency from *Mr Lodge*; and this gentleman has since declared 'that *Mr Greive* would not give up a single point, or budge an inch on the occasion.'

The Duke's party must have recourse at last, surely, to all their 'lively geniuses,' for their present writers
O are

are intolerably dull, and tell lies, indeed, with a most wretched grace; but their veracity and understanding are on a level, and they may be truly said to have 'added to the meanness of an action, the infamy of detection,' and stand convicted at your tribunal, gentlemen, of a most notorious untruth: Their proceedings must at length therefore 'become offensive to the world,' for they have shewn themselves as deficient in ingenuity as honour.

The writer now attempts at once to throw a reflection on Mr Greive's integrity, and to be very witty at his expence. He talks of '*forgery*' with an easy indifference, which bespeaks his real character. An anonymous writer may say any thing; and it is not many days since I received from an honest printer, a paragraph accusing that gentleman of little less than *murder*, and another press declined a publication of the same kind, from a prudent regard to the safety of the printer. When such infamous attacks are made on private characters, it is high time to call for *names* and *authors*. We are told, 'that a good conscience is a constant feast,' and it is the best support of Mr Greive; for it will be well, 'ere all is over, if malice point not at something more than his reputation.

There is infinite wit to be sure, in the idea of the 'Sheriff's bailiff;' and I am not sorry to discover his implacable enmity to *patriots*. His political zeal against them appears to rival the blind fury of religion; and should the days of despotism be near, I should expect to see him, like the bloody Bonner, conducting these unfortunate objects of his wrath to the stake and martyrdom: But even in this trifling *jeu d'esprit*, he is a wretched plagiary. The jest was borrowed from Mr Wilkes's imprisonment, and belongs to the *Public Advertiser* of the day.—It may pass, however, at the distance of five years; and as the jest is harmless, I can laugh at this stretch of pleasantry; but when he talks of an 'ingenious artifice,' and says that Swan's declaration was *artfully* expressed, he must excuse me if I am a little rude with his shadow, *though I cannot find his person*.—The declaration was made volutarily in a private house
in

in the presence of many respectable gentlemen, and without a bribe of money or liquor. — CAN AS MUCH BE SAID OF MR JOHN ARCHBOLD? — The question, it is true, is delicate; but after what has passed, I own I should not be sorry to have an answer in the affirmative. — *Swan* palpably acted against his interest in making the declaration, and from some menaces that have been thrown out against him, I fear that he will have reason to feel Mr *French's* resentment. I shall only observe farther, that he is *Archbold's* companion, and insists upon the fact. His declaration is explicit; and that man's mind, indeed, must be fertile in expedients of artifice, and villainy, who can make a distinction between *being shewn* and *having seen a letter*.

But when I allow him a qualification for the bar of the Old Bailey, it may be proper to remind him that a knowledge of his mother-tongue is necessary. In Ireland, I am told, it is possible to be *shewn* a thing without *seeing it*; but in this country I never heard of a blind man *seeing a shew*. — *Swan* says, "that he has seen and read a letter from Mr *John French* to Mr *John Archbold*, dated July 13, 1774, requesting his vote and interest for Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Huxley Delaval*, which has been published in the *Newcastle Chronicle*; and that Mr *John Archbold* shewed him a letter to the same purport, from the said *John French*, containing a request of his vote and interest for the above gentlemen, long before the meeting at *Morpeth*, on the 26th of July." — Can language itself be plainer? and yet impudence is ready to deny the circumstance.

His remark on *Henderson's* declaration is still more audacious and absurd. — He says, 'that *Henderson*, in order to prove the letter was written (he does not say wrote, as Mr *French* did) before the meeting at *Morpeth*, declares that he read the letter a few days after it.' A very subtle subterfuge, and worthy of the most experienced attorney. But this writer surely confines his reading to his own 'most elegant and most convincing productions;' or imagines we have already forgotten the fact to which *Henderson's* declaration refers, and which is as clear and pertinent as if he had actually seen

seen the letter before the meeting; for Mr *French* declares, ' that it was sent on or about the 13th of *August*;' and *Archbold* says, that ' he received it on the 14th of *August*:'—Is not this directly to the point then? and does it not flatly contradict their *solemn declarations*, when *Henderson* says, ' that he read a letter from Mr *French* to Mr *Archbold*, in the house of *John Archbold*, dated *July 13, 1774*, requesting his vote and interest, &c. a few days after the meeting, many days before the 13th of *August*; and in particular is positive, that he saw the said letter before the assizes at *Newcastle*;' and the assizes began on the 30th of *July*, only four days after the meeting.

' These, gentlemen, are points of fact, which can neither be strengthened nor confuted by argument:—you will judge of the conclusions.'

Before I leave this writer, however, I must take notice of a passage in another of his papers, which establishes at once his wit and information. He very acutely observes, that the King's remark on the Duke's ingratitude must have passed between his Majesty and me, (the Byestander) in a private conversation. The Byestander is, alas! a patriot, and has never been admitted to a friendly conference with the King; but it was from rank courtiers of this gentleman's complexion, that he learnt his Sovereign's opinion of his Grace's gratitude; nor is it strange that Lord *Bute* should have recommended this Grandee to the conduct of the Treasury in 1766, when we consider the terms on which his Dukedom was obtained.—It has proved indeed a fatal marriage; yet although I am his enemy, I feel that I am a man, and most sincerely wish him at least the domestic comforts of a more pleasing prospect.—To whose indiscretion now is the Duke indebted for his defence!—But I am obliged to hammer the most glaring facts into his loggerhead. It is the subsequent behaviour of his Grace, and the return his master met with for the unmerited favours he has showered upon him, that are the grounds for this reproachful observation.—His Grace's opposition is but of yesterday; but the honours of his present name and title are his Sovereign's.

For

For the amusement of this Gentleman and *Dr Percy*, who may easily procure it entire for his next edition of "*Reliques*," I will give him a stanza or two from an excellent ballad, published at the time of the treaty with Lord *Bute*, to the favourite family tune of *Chevy-Chace*.

And now to the degree of Duke
My husband I'll advance;
And while he pranks it here at home,
Why I'll parade in *France*.
Then of the Peers of good account,
The rest were all put by,
To make a Duke of Sir *Hugh Smithson*,
Who made himself *Percy*.
God bless the King, and all the land,
In plenty, joy, and peace,
And grant that henceforth all regard
To birth and merit cease.

He will find the remainder in "the Foundling Hospital for Wit," a little book that might be of some service to the 'Author of the Answer to all the Charges;' for should it not improve his morality, it cannot fail of rendering him in future at least more entertaining.

It must now be owned that I have bestowed more paper on this very pompous and conceited gentleman than he has any title to expect; but he shall not always experience the same generous attention;—my time shall be better employed in your service, or divided with the 'females,' from whose 'vanity,' (as he arraigns it so severely) I fear this pretty gentleman has experienced a rebuff. Be it my pride, however, as it is my greatest happiness, to cultivate their favour; even though from them I should catch the foible 'of having the last word;'—for

'To them I dedicate boots, sword, and shield,
'As ready for the chamber as the field.'

Sept. 24, 1774.

A BYESTANDER.

To the Independent Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.

Act well your part—there all the honour lies.

GENTLEMEN,

THE period is at length arrived, when you are to determine whether you will be FREEMEN or SLAVES.—The great contest in which we are at present engaged, lies entirely between *you*—the Freeholders (who dare to act the part of honest men, and do that justice which is due to your country and posterity) and a ruinous combination of the Lords and Great Interests in this county, to render your votes of *no consequence* in future, and to reduce you to that state of insignificance which has so long disgraced you as men, and lost you, for so many years, in the eyes of your countrymen, the glorious and honourable distinction of FREEMEN!—It is not to personal connections or the sordid views of interest, that we should now refer for a guide and direction to our judgment in this important struggle.

The duty you owe to GOD and your COUNTRY, is paramount to every other tie or obligation; and is the first duty you are called upon to discharge.—In the present situation of this country, it ceases to be a matter of compliment or indifference, on whom you bestow your votes.—An independent and honest parliament should be your pursuit, and the first object of your wishes.

Four Candidates now present themselves for your suffrages at the approaching election—The first is Lord *Algernon Percy*, second son of the Duke of *Northumberland*. He has been long abroad on account of a bad state of health, and is at present very far distant from his native country.—I wish not to be the prophet of unfortunate events; but, it is more than likely that *we shall never see him here*.—Besides, he is young and inexperienced, and his abilities are untried. His health is desperate; and he is not able, even tho' it suited his inclinations, to reside amongst us.—With every

every disposition then to pay a *compliment* to a great man, let us not forget the importance of the trust which reposes our *lives, liberties, and properties* in the hands of a Representative, however dignified by rank or title, who is either *unable* to protect our rights, or has shewn himself so compleatly *indifferent* to the honour of that station you intended him.

It is now near two years since the D. solicited your interest for his son; you have been repeatedly addressed and canvassed by his *Grace*, his *Chaplains*, and his *Agents*; the election is at hand, and you have never seen your Candidate!—For whom then have some of you promised your support? I will answer for you all—*To the most unfit person in the county, without one single recommendation besides his title and situation as a Peer's son*, the very circumstance which militates the most forcibly against him; and yet the times are big with matters which involve in their consequences our existence as a free state, and on which the very *being* of the British empire may eventually depend.

Our late Members have resigned *from want of health*: On what pretext then are we to elect Lord *Algernon Percy*? He cannot serve us, if he would, in that capacity; and, for my own part, I will never tamely submit to see my country in a state of thralldom, or bartered away, as *private property*, by a few Noblemen over a dinner and a bottle of claret, at *Almack's* or *Northumberland house*.

Let me conjure you then, my fellow Freeholders, to make one noble effort and *redeem* the county of *Northumberland*!—The eyes of all *England* are upon you; for the present struggle is of the noblest kind: The event will either hand your names down with honour to your children (for your deeds will be on *record*) or you will be stamped with *infamy*, as the men who have betrayed your country and made *cyphers* of your posterity; for who will again stand forward to support you who **WILL NOT SUPPORT YOURSELVES**? This is, in truth, the last effort to give you an independent choice: Do justice to yourselves then, and maintain—*your freedom of election*!

I shall not bestow so many words on Sir *John De-laval*: He has always been a marked follower of the Duke, and does not choose to be an *independent man*: His Grace's *interest* has been the constant object of Sir *John's* wonder and attention; and (HE will recollect his own expression) has been the BROAD BOTTOM on which he rested all his *expectations*!

He has lost *Berwick* by a conduct, which ought by no means to recommend him to our choice; and stands before you a most unhappy figure; at once the *refuse* of a neighbouring borough, and the humble *implement* and *follower* of his Grace the Duke of *Northumberland*. I may pity his situation, and condemn his unfortunate connexions, but shall never think of bestowing a vote upon the *Baronet*.

He may possibly, at some future day, be able to resume a consequence which his present conduct and character have lost him; but he must not be permitted to sin against the public with impunity.

Permit me now to address you very shortly in behalf of Sir *Wm Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick*, the two candidates whose conduct has justly entitled them to the appellation of INDEPENDENT.—The treatment you received at the last election, has been very hardly brooked by every man of sense and spirit in the county. You have repeatedly expressed the most anxious wishes to have an opportunity of resenting the contempt that has been shewn you, and of electing representatives from among yourselves, who will make *your interest* their only object; and look for no other support, than what they receive from you, Gentlemen, their brethren and fellow-freeholders.

You have long called for men of their complexion, and complained that you were deserted by the county gentlemen.—Your wishes are now complete. You have the opportunity before you of rescuing yourselves and your posterity from bondage, and of establishing once more the independence of the county. In this attempt you are generously aided by a very great and respectable body of county gentlemen, who have presented Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* to your choice,

choice, as men of known *worth, honour, and independence*, who will pin their faith upon the sleeve of no Duke or Lord whatever; or will ever sacrifice your interests by any compact or agreement with the **LORDLY JUNTO**. Enquire into their characters, they will bear a scrutiny—Examine their motives, you will find them *pure and disinterested*.—Look upon the gentlemen who are their supporters, their path is straight and honourable;—they spare no pains, trouble, nor expence to serve you, and **SAVE THE HONOUR OF THE COUNTY**. Consider well, then, what you are about:—If we fail in this great and glorious struggle, the shame and infamy of the defeat will rest with YOU; and the children that are unborn will have reason to curse their dastardly and pusillanimous forefathers.

But I will not harbour the suspicion;—if I know my countrymen aright, there yet remains a spirit among them, which will shew itself superior alike to the **MENACES OF POWER**, and the **WICKED AND SCANDALOUS PRACTICE OF CORRUPTION**. **NOW OR NEVER**.

Oct. 6, 1774.

A BYESTANDER.

N U M B. XLVI.

DIALOGUE between Mr Collingwood Forster, Steward of the Duke's Courts, one Storer, of Rothbury, and an honest Cooper of Thropton, who has a Wife and seven Children.

Coll. **W**ELL, Mr ———, you have a freehold.
Cooper. Yes, Sir.—Coll. We come to ask your votes.—C. I am engaged, Sir.—Coll. Engaged! have any of our people applied to you?—C. Yes, Sir.
---Coll. And so you promised them no doubt?—Well, well, I am very glad of it.—C. They have applied to me, Sir, but I am for Sir Wm Middleton and Mr Fenwick.—Coll. For Sir Wm Middleton and Mr Fenwick? what are they? D—n them, what can they do for you? Sir Wm Middleton and Mr Fenwick indeed!!—C. Sir, I

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look

look upon them both as very honest men; Mr *Fenwick* I have known for many years; and Sir *William*, the whole country agrees, is as brave a man, as good a landlord, and as true a lover of his country, as any man in *England*.—*Coll.* Pshaw, you fool!—*C.* 'Tis true, Sir, I was not bred an attorney; but I defy your words.—*Storer.* This fellow, Sir, is very ungrateful; he gets all his wood from our Duke.—*Coll.* Does he so? Well, Sir, what say you to that?—*C.* Say, Sir, I say that Mr *Storer* cannot take upon him to tell you that I do not pay for what I get; and, Sir, (God be thanked) there are more woods in the country. I will not pawn my conscience for all that you can do for me.—*Storer.* Pray, take notice of him, *Coll.* *Coll.* (Taking out his pencil and pocket-book) I warrant you he shall not escape; we'll mark him. Consider well, Sir, what you are doing. If you continue so tough, you will get no more wood from us. We'll take care of you.—*C.* Sir, I am poor, but honest; I will not go from my word, and am determined to retire to my wife and family with a clear conscience.—*Coll.* Conscience!! you are a silly blockhead, and do not know your own interest.—*Storer.* Let us go, *Coll.* D—n him! *Exeunt.*

The man who views this picture, and does not feel for his freedom, is unworthy of the name of *Englishman*.—It is taken from the life, and equally affects us all.—No man can command the turns of fortune, or “controul his fate.” The same spirit, therefore, ought to be our boast and consolation, and should support us under every difficulty.

A BYESTANDER.

XLVII.

A Phalanx of the patriotic Freeholders of the county of Northumberland, call upon Sir *William Middleton* to inform them,

First—Whether he did not, whilst he was in London, wait upon Lord North, and solicit his support as a candidate to represent the county of Northumberland?

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Secondly—*Whether Lord North did not give him a promise of his support as such?*

We believe we need not ask, whether in Consequence of the completion of the promise of the first Lord of the Treasury, Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* are not now avowedly in possession of the government interest, as it is well known they have been parading through the county, to secure to themselves the votes of the tenants of the *Greenwich* hospital, and other freeholders, whose livelihoods depend upon the will of the ministers, and who have been obliged, contrary to their inclinations, to comply with their arbitrary mandate: Nor do we require any further proof, that the ministry consider Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Hussey Delaval* as too independent to be in parliament; they who sent Lord *Lisburne*, a Lord of the Admiralty, to *Berwick*, and are this day shutting that passage to the House of Commons against Sir *John Hussey Delaval*, are at the same time endeavouring to bar His and Lord *Algernon Percy's* entrance thither through the county of *Northumberland*.

Have not these Court Candidates obtained the promises of votes from many of us by having represented themselves as PATRIOTS? We will agree in the end proposed by them to us; but we must differ about the persons by whom it is to be effected. We will reject with disdain the specious advisers, having fortunately discovered that their professions were ill-grounded. Did they expect thanks for supporting our independency by ministerial interference, or for the opportunity they have given us of exercising our free suffrages, by treating us as the SLAVES OF POWER? We will not stoop so low as to raise them from the feet of the ministers, where they have thrown themselves, and sanctify their abject prostration, by entrusting them with the preservation of every thing that is dear to us.—*If we gave them our suffrages, because they assured us they were patriots, ought we any longer to support them after they have proved themselves Courtiers.* Hear the opinion of two able political casuists upon this subject, who, proud of the doctrine contained in

in it, have in the public news-papers, for our edification, voluntarily subscribed their names thereto.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county of Northumberland.

THE great encouragement we have met with during our Canvass, has determined us to stand the poll : *And we hope that the Freeholders, who have been prevailed upon by false insinuations to promise their votes and interest, will look upon themselves as totally disengaged, and vigorously support their rights and liberties ; and such as we have not already personally waited upon, will not attribute it to any neglect in us, but to the hurry of a general canvass in so large a county.* We are,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servants,

NEWCASTLE,
Aug. 12, 1774.

WM MIDDLETON,
WM FENWICK.

Let us not give our support to gentlemen who are only qualified to execute a trust where silence is meritorious, or to be of service to a ministry where secrecy is necessary.—They would for six months longer have squeezed us gently by the hand with a COURTLY gripe, and wheedled us with flattering promises, had not the speedy approach of the election, made them think it necessary to threaten us with a rod of iron. We have by a timely discovery escaped the ridicule and laughter of all mankind, which we should have deserved, if we had delivered ourselves into the hands of ministers whom we abhor, through the artifice of gentlemen, who have not afforded us any good excuse for suffering our understandings to be over-reached. I confess we were among the number of those who believed the patriotic professions of Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick*, and intended to have given them our votes ; but we should have held ourselves in contempt for the remainder of our lives, if we had voted for candidates supported by, and the supporters of ministers, who were the authors of the *Boston* port act, the act for altering the charter of *Massachusetts's Bay*,
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the act for the trial in Europe of persons accused of criminal offences in *America*, and above all, the act for establishing **POPERY** and a fresh system of laws in **CANADA**. Being determined not to poll for men who will certainly vote against the repeal of these bills, we sat down seriously to consider the objections which had been urged against Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Hussey Delaval*; we found of the former it had been said his health was not established, and his abilities are untried; but we have seen a letter giving an account of his Lordship's being perfectly well, and in his way to *England*, in order to execute the great trust which he hopes to be honoured with by the freeholders of *Northumberland*; and to refute those illiberal and merciless sarcasms calculated to wound the hearts of his parents and his friends, and to intercept the good offices of those persons whose credulity could be imposed upon by such uncandid assertions: His capacity is well known to be such as may do himself great honour, and his country great service. Sir *John* is accused of being a follower of the *Duke of Northumberland*, and dependent upon him; but 'tis too absurd for any man of sense, who knows the magnitude of his fortune, or considers that he has sat twenty-one years in parliament, unseduced by any of those dazzling temptations which have lured to the snare of ministers, hundreds of his contemporaries during that space of time, to believe he either is or ever will be dependent upon any man.

After having made the above review of the four Candidates, we cannot hesitate a moment about giving our support to Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *John Delaval*. And we will consider any man as a *mock patriot*, who shall continue to support Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* after the discovery herein manifested by

A PHALANX of real PATRIOTS.

We have inserted an advertisement which appeared in the *London Evening Post*, the 6th instant, for the further information of our brethren the Freeholders, and

and it is now no longer a doubt, why Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick* refused to sign the articles which were offered to them as a test of their parliamentary conduct.

LONDON, Oct. 6, 1774.

To the Freeholders of the County of Northumberland,

GENTLEMEN,

"BEFORE you engage yourselves so strenuously in the cause of Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick*, as the cause of freedom and independency, you would do well first to assure yourselves, whether, in so doing, you are not supporting that cause you would wish to oppose? It will surprize you, perhaps, to hear that interest is making from the Treasury, on behalf of those very independent gentlemen. Mr *Robinson*, secretary to the Treasury, in a letter to a freeholder of the county, resident in *London*, tells him, "Our friends are Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick*."—The truth of this I do hereby undertake to prove when called upon, therefore, such of you who are true friends of freedom and independency, I hope will suspend your engagements till this matter is fully cleared."

An OLD WHIG.

XLVIII.

To the Independent FREEHOLDERS of the County of Northumberland.

Flectere si nequeo superos, Acheronta movebo.

Heaven, not their friend, they'll have recourse to hell.

GENTLEMEN,

TO support a dying cause (the friends of the Duke and Sir *John Delaval* have had recourse to another shameful and most impudent falsehood) a handbill has been industriously circulated throughout the county, signed "An Old Whig," which is copied from an anonymous paragraph in one of the *London papers*,

pers, telling you that the Treasury have made interest on behalf of Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick*, and that Mr *Robinson*, their secretary, in a letter to a freeholder of this county, resident in *London*, says :

"Our friends are Sir *William Middleton* and Mr "*Fenwick*."—The fact is, that the *Duke* and Sir *John Delaval* (who were never true to any party) have invented this *election story* to deceive you, trusting to the near approach of the election, and in the perfect confidence that at this distance from *London*, it would be impossible to detect the LIE in time.

Mr *Robinson*, who really wrote such a letter, is secretary to the Dissenting Ministers in *London*, and did it by their order.—We are indebted for this very honourable assistance to that honest man, and our distinguished countryman—the Hon. *Constantine John Phipps*, who has manfully stood forth at all times to support the cause of civil and religious liberty, and is highly deserving the grateful thanks of every protestant dissenter : He saw our oppressed situation, and, unsolicited, made use of his interest with that respectable body on our behalf. Let us pay him, therefore, in every way, our tribute of gratitude, and hold in execration the Old Whig and his Patrons, as the abettors of a gross, notorious, and wilful *Falshood*.

October 12, 1774.

STEADY.

XLIX.

To the Independent FREEHOLDERS of the County of Northumberland.

DURING the present unconstitutional contest for members to represent this county in parliament, between the NOBILITY on one hand, and the FREEHOLDERS on the other, I beg leave to become your correspondent ; not with any hope of persuading the former to drop their interference, but with an assurance that I shall be able to open the eyes

eyes of the latter, so that they will resolutely withstand it.

The happiness, I had almost said the essence, of our excellent constitution, arises from the independency of one House of Parliament upon the other. But how is it possible the House of Commons should be independent on the House of Lords, if the Nobility interfere in every county as manifestly as they do in this?—There is a general combination of all the Peers and their adherents, from the noble DUKE of NORTHUMBERLAND down to his Crony WILLIAM CHARLETON, against Sir *William Middleton* and Mr *Fenwick*, the two candidates, who, if the freeholders were left to themselves, would undoubtedly be chosen members for this county.

I shall not degrade the several noble Lords who have entered into this scandalous confederacy, even by mentioning their names:—My business lies more immediately with the D— of N——, who, through the whole contest, has acted a part inconsistent with decency, truth, and honour.—His endeavours to influence the county, commenced so early as the assizes in the year 1773, when he acquainted the gentlemen present, at a public meeting, with his intentions of offering one of his sons as a candidate to represent us in parliament at the next general election. This was generally looked upon as indecent to our present Members, who, at that time, had never intimated their intentions of declining to stand for the county again.—It was like seizing, not upon dead men's shoes, but upon the shoes of those who were still alive; and, for ought I know, desirous of wearing them a little longer.

Some persons too considered this declaration as an indecency to the whole county; for as his Grace did not specify *which* of his two sons he intended to offer, they concluded of course that he thought *either* of them was *good enough*. But I acquit his Grace of all intended rudeness of this sort, and make no doubt but he was of the same opinion with myself, and many hundreds more, that there was not a farthing to chuse
be-

between them, and that it is a matter of perfect indifference whether the county is represented by *Homuncio* or *Homunculus*, by *Lord Percy* or *Lord Algernon*.

Having given his Grace credit for this mark of his sagacity, (the only one that has ever yet come to my knowledge) and at the same time done myself much honour in coinciding with him in a point of such nice and curious speculation, as the comparative merits of the two little Lordlings, I now proceed to what happened further at the said meeting.—After he had intimated that he intended to propose *one* of his sons (what a mercy it was he did not attempt to cram them *both* down our throats) to represent the county, he graciously condescended to assure the company, that he should not interfere in the election of the other member.—What amazing modesty! What singular self-denial!—His Grace has *two* sons, and the county sends *two* members to parliament.—Here is a perfect coincidence of circumstances.—They fit like hand and glove; and yet his Grace *obligingly* promised, that if he might draw on *one* glove, the county should be left to fit themselves with the *other*. But has his Grace observed his promise? Has he never interfered in favour of Sir *John Delaval*? We know that his *agents* have made use of every means in their power to influence the freeholders.—They have solicited—have wheedled—have threatened.—But they did all this without his Grace's knowledge: *William Charleton*, a man of NOTORIOUS VERACITY will take his corporal oath of it, and one *Col. Forster* is ready to back him.

I can never sufficiently lament that the good old custom of affidavit-men wearing whisks of straw upon their legs, is now laid aside.—These fellows would have been a treasure. By their means a common petty-fogger might have swelled out into a Nabob.—But peace to all such! they are as much below my notice, as they ought to have been below his Grace's patronage—I fly at nobler game; and if you will allow me a place in your paper once a week, I will endeavour

to make his Grace sincerely sorry that he has not acted more like a gentleman and a man of honour.

I am, yours, &c.

Northumberland.

A TRIBUNE.

L.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

ON the present occasion of the sudden dissolution of parliament, we beg leave to repeat our solicitations to you for the favour of your votes and interest at the approaching election.

From the time that we first humbly offered our services to you, to represent the county in parliament, we have had only one and the same object in view,—the preservation of your rights and privileges, and the maintenance of your free suffrages against every attempt of undue influence and ambition.

It is with sincerity, Gentlemen, we now return your thanks for the generous support we have met with on our canvas. A continuance of the same spirit to the poll, cannot fail of crowning our wishes with success; and of rendering us the happy objects in your hands, of re-establishing your consequence, and the independence of the county.

From the great hurry of the present emergency, we are afraid that it will not be in our power to pay that personal respect which is due to every freeholder.—We hope, however, for your indulgence; and shall endeavour, by the closest attention that the time will permit, to remedy any neglect which may have arisen, not from our inattention, but from an unavoidable concurrence of circumstances, and the present unexpected event.—*We are, Gentlemen,*

(With the highest respect and gratitude)

Your most obedient and most humble servants,

MORPETH,
October 3, 1774.

WM MIDDLETON,
WM FENWICK.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

AS the election of representatives to serve this county in parliament, will be held at *Alnwick*, on *Thursday* the 13th inst. I beg leave, in this manner, to solicit the favour of your appearance and support on that day. — I hope you will be assured, that if I shall have the happiness of being chosen one of your Representatives, nothing in my power shall be wanting to support and advance the particular interests of this great county, and that I shall ever glory in an unremitting ardour to serve you, and to maintain that liberty and independency which are your undoubted birth-right. *I am, Gentlemen,*

With the highest regard and respect,

Your most devoted,

And most obliged humble servant,

October 5, 1774

ALGERNON PERCY.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

AS the election of representatives to serve the county of *Northumberland* in parliament, will be on *Thursday* next, the 13th of this month, at *Alnwick*, I earnestly request the favour of your appearance and support there, on that day. — If I shall have the honour of being chosen by you, which, from the indulgent reception I have met with on my canvas, I have reason to hope for, I will contribute as much as I can towards the preservation of your rights, your liberties, and your privileges, with the same unshaken independence, that I have hitherto acted in the House of Commons; and persevere in the disinterested con-

conduct, that I have invariably held during the course of the three parliaments in which I have had the honour of sitting. *I am, Gentlemen,*

Your most faithful, obliged,

Seaton-DelaVal, And obedient, humble servant,

Oct. 5, 1774. JOHN HUSSEY DELAVAL.

LIII.

IN my last letter I took notice of the very early interference of the Duke of Northumberland, in favour of one of his sons; which he accompanied with a declaration, that he should leave the election of the other member to the free choice of the county.—He has kept his promise so religiously, that one would think the white-robed cherub, *Truth*, as *Milton* calls her, before she leaves this hated earth, had taken her last flight to *Alnwick Castle*, and there forms an agreeable *partie carrée* with his Grace, *Wm Charleton*, and *Coll. Forster*.—An illustrious triumvirate! celebrated alike for diffidence and modesty, for humility and meekness, for veracity and honour.

I am sensible there are a number of worthy persons, who, from his Grace's high rank, and the considerable property he possesses in the county, think he has a right to interfere, at least so far as to recommend one member to our choice; and under this opinion have promised him their support and interest: But, I am persuaded, when these gentlemen have considered the matter a little more closely, they will perceive such a glaring impropriety in the nobility interfering AT ALL in elections for members of parliament; that they will be sincerely sorry for what they have done, and will shew themselves more eager to retract than they were to promise.

The House of Commons are the guardians of every thing that is dear to Englishmen, of liberty and property. They are the bulwarks that must withstand all encroachments of the Crown; and for that reason should be free from all influence, and sacred from every attempt of secret corruption, as well as open violence.—What

is fabled of the palladium of *Troy*, that the city could not be taken so long as this was kept safe and inviolate, is literally true of the House of Commons : So long as that great *palladium* of our liberties remains pure and uncorrupt ; while neither *Diomedes* nor *Ulysses*, neither force nor fraud can prevail against it, we have nothing to fear ; our constitution will flourish in spite of age, and derive strength and vigour from every wound.

The danger that threatens the political life of this nation, arises from the *too great* influence of the Crown ; and we ought to guard against that, let it approach us in what shape soever, whether with the smooth—fawning leer of a buckined Courtier, or the insolent authority of a MUSHROOM DUKE !

The King is the fountain of all honour : The nobility are the breath of his nostrils ; are created at his pleasure, and are his hereditary counsellors. It may fairly be supposed, therefore, that they are liable to be *influenced by the crown* ;—nay, it cannot be otherwise ; for as their dignities are derived from the king, so upon the being of a king depends their very existence : they stand and fall together.—What madness is it then to suffer persons so interested, so *interwoven as it were with the crown*, to interfere in the elections of members of parliament—the *representatives of the people* ?—What ! are the House of Commons so jealous of their privilege, that they will not allow the Peers to make the slightest, the most inconsiderable alteration in a Money-bill ?—And shall the Peers influence, and direct the election of those from whom all taxes originate ? Shall they *combine together*, and cram their *own* creatures down our throats ? Where can this end but in the ruin of our devoted country, in the tyranny of one or of many !

I tremble at the prospect ; and earnestly entreat those freeholders, who have incautiously promised their votes to Lord *Algernon* and Sir *John Delaval*, to take the matter into their serious consideration. In all indifferent points—nay in cases where a man hurts himself only, and NO ONE ELSE, a promise is undoubtedly binding :—but when other people are materially affected—when children yet unborn may rue the voting of that day,

day——when their country calls upon them to withstand the *fatal influence of the crown*, conveyed through these false——these poisoned conduits——in such a case it is a matter of duty to retract, and a promise thus inconsiderately given, is, as *Shakespeare* says, ‘more honoured in the breach than the observance.’

Northumberland.

A TRIBUNE.

LIV.

TO TRIBUNE.

BEFORE we pursue advice, 'tis necessary to enquire a little into the character of *him* who gives it; and if he be found to be a *tricking, self-interested* knave, we ought to embrace it with caution.

In the last week's *Chronicle*, you talk much about the dependences of Peers on the Crown, and would insinuate the impossibility of a Peer's contributing to the liberty and well-being of his country. Here, I suppose, you mean *him* whose chaplain you are, and whose *servility* and *dependence* are well known.——But what has all this to do with the Duke of *Northumberland*, who is known to be a *true friend* to liberty, and a strenuous opposer of the despotic measures of a corrupt Ministry.

You may talk as long as you please about the dependency of Peers, facts will speak for themselves, and in spite of all your sophistry, prove that there are noblemen beyond the lure of royalty——men whom titles and honours cannot tempt to ruin the constitution, and give up their country's freedom: And does not the Duke of *Northumberland* make one in that conspicuous list?——Away then with your logistical subtilties, *Northumbria's* sons will never be *priest-rid*, nor suffer a *S——h's* *whining* tool to mislead their judgment, and hood-wink their reason.

But even granting the Duke's interference in electing Members for the county to be rather unconstitutional, yet does not the complexion of the times, and the connexions of the *would-be-thought* liberty candidates, give sanction to the measure, and justify such a procedure?

Sir

Sir John Delaval's political principles are well known; he has long shewn himself a zealous opposer of those men who bestowed upon you one of the *best* Vicarages in the County, as a reward for the *vilest* of services. — And we cannot without offering violence to our understanding, suppose that *Lord Algernon Percy* will pursue the measures of administration, in direct opposition to his father. From Mr F——, his most zealous friends expect but little; they frankly confess they support him — not for his merits, but to make a division in favour of his colleague, *honest Sir W——*, who gives but a poor proof of his *political honesty*, when he refuses every test whereby it may be known, for fear he should disoblige several of his friends who have GREAT INTEREST. This is indeed a poor shew of independency. But the matter does not rest here, for though we have *little good* to expect from *Sir W——* and *Mr F——*, say, have we not *every ill* to fear, seeing they are supported by the C——n, a S——h——e, and a S——d——h in the person of a S——t. Look to yourselves ye *worthy freeholders*; the mask is now thrown off; frequent brushing has made the *assumed coat* of liberty quite threadbare, and hypocrisy begins to shew itself through the thinness of the covering.

When the fox preaches let the geese beware.

A NORTH-BRITON.

• Could *Sir W——m* mean the immaculate *Jemmy Twitchers*?

LV.

To the Independent Freeholders of the county of Northumberland.

NOTwithstanding the unexpected dissolution of parliament happened so lately as upon the 30th of last month, I perceive, to my utter astonishment, that *Lord Algernon Percy* addresses the freeholders upon the occasion, in his own proper person. Now, as he was a week or two ago in a very distant part of the *East*, in *Egypt*, *Georgia*, or *God* knows where, I cannot suppose the news could possibly travel *thither* in so short a time;

time; he must, therefore, certainly have been *here*; and how he contrived to skim along at such a prodigious rate, it shall be my business to conjecture.

Mr Bayle tells us, that PHILETAS, the grammarian, was so extremely slim and slender, that he was obliged to put lead into his shoes, lest the wind should blow him away: Now, for want of some such precaution as this, the late *South-East winds*, (which have pestered us terribly) have certainly whisked up his little Lordship from the snowy bosom of some lovely *Circassian*, and set him down at *Alnwick-Castle*; where he had just time to pen the elegant advertisement, that bears date *October the 5th*, when the wind, *luckily* shifting about to the *North-West*, carried him back again to the *milch fair-one*—There, in the name of charity, let him continue quiet and unmolested! May the acid of party never curdle the sweet milk, that nourishes the tender Lordling! May the sight of hoary-headed *Cheviott*, never again throw him into an ague! What have our MODERN PERCIES to do with *Cheviott*? And what have you, my brother Freeholders, to do with our MODERN PERCIES?

Let me talk to you a little gravely—The trust reposed in the several members of the House of Commons, is of the most serious and sacred nature; the preservation of our constitution, with all our rights and privileges, nay our very lives and properties, depend absolutely upon them:—And can you think of chusing a person a member of this important assembly, who at the present moment is *several thousand miles* distant? who is never likely to live amongst you? who declares openly that he never can endure this abominable country? who, if he should be chosen, and come over to take his seat in parliament, would soon (as Mr Pope says)

Grow sick, and damn the climate LIKE A LORD?

I shall say nothing of his abilities, for they are not worth mentioning; nor of his principles, for they have not been tried: But this I insist upon strenuously, that the greatest absurdity in nature is for *such a person* to be pro-

proposed a candidate, unless it be the absurdity of voting for him. For heaven's sake, Gentlemen, be sure at least that there is such a person as *Lord Algernon*, before you support him.—You have a right to *ocular proof* of it.—Will you, like the silly dog in the fable, give up the *substance* for a *shadow*?—You have two worthy gentlemen, *Sir William Middleton* and *Mr Fenwick*, who offer you their services: They are men, I will pawn my life on it, who will ever maintain your independency, freedom, and property. Give *them* your hearty support and interest. You have nothing *reasonable* to expect from *Lord Algernon*, and it is *unreasonable* that he should expect any thing from you.

A TRIBUNE.

LVI.

To the Gentlemen Freeholders of Northumberland.

ALLOW me to request that you will recollect, how much of late years the Nobility have united; and will observe how much they, at present, combine, in issuing *Congé d'Elire*, for electing members of the House of Commons.—To call upon you, as *Englishmen*, to exert yourselves, in preventing so far as you can, such a subversion of the constitution, and to beseech you, as freeholders of *Northumberland*, to preserve your independency, and assert your right of paying no obedience to *that* which is now issued, for electing two members for this county.

As to those so *nobly* recommended, let me make one observation.—If you think the plea of non-attendance at *Westminster*, as given by your present members, a sufficient reason for their not offering themselves again as candidates, will you not, by electing one of those recommended, tell the world you think their attendance there of no significance?—Be consistent, I beseech you.—But if you are determined to render yourselves passive machines and tools to one *nobleman*, imitate the spirit of the *Totness address*, and join in one to his Grace, beseeching that he would henceforward exempt

R

you

you from the trouble of attending any future election at *Alnwick*; and that he would vouchsafe to appoint by his sole fiat the members for this county, in which his solicitude that every one should quietly and unmolestedly sit under and enjoy his own vine, is well known.

I know it is said, a superiority of fortune, ought to give weight to the owner's recommendation on such occasions as this. For my own part, I see no good reasoning to support it. A man of talents or capacity, and a man of fortune, seem to me to be only valuable according to the use they make of them: Without honesty and benevolence of heart, they become, as many of you have seen or perhaps felt, so much more formidable, and of course so much less to be trusted.

NORTHUMBRIENSIS.

LVII.

A CAUTION to the Independent Freeholders.

PERMIT one of your brethren to caution you against the snares which are now laid for you in every shape, to seduce you from your promises and to shake your honesty. — Scouts from the *Castle* are now lying in wait for every unguarded Freeholder; and no pains will be spared to draw you into the clutches of *Coll. Forster*, and the other creatures of the *Duke*. — Let me entreat you not to enter those POLLUTED WALLS, lest you return from thence robbed of your senses and your honour.

ALNWICK,

A FREEHOLDER.

October 14, 1774.

LVIII.

To the Independent Freeholders of the county of Northumberland.

But for himself this Lord of all,

One CHOSEN SEAT design'd;

O! who shall to that sacred hill

Desir'd admittance find?

The man whose hands and heart are pure,

Whose thoughts from pride are free;

Who honest poverty prefers

To gainful PERJURY.

Psalms xxiv. 5-3.

THE industrious agents and attorneys of the Duke and Sir John Delaval, are busily employed in polling off men who have no pretensions whatever to the honourable distinction of *Freeholders*, and are driving many poor deluded persons to vote, who would never have dreamt of giving themselves that title. Ten shillings a year is now magnified into forty or fifty; and men who have been in possession only for a few months are compelled, by these callous and unfeeling wretches, to draw down punishment upon themselves in this world by gross and notorious *Perjury*, and eternal destruction hereafter.-----Many flagrant instances of this might be adduced; but I shall only trouble you with one, and I hold it up at once as a caution to any deluded persons, whom they may be hurrying on to the same dreadful situation, and to deter others, by informing them of the punishment which now awaits one unhappy man.

The F A C T.

ROBERT PROFFITT, the younger, of *Embleton*, was known by all his neighbours to be possessed of no freehold; many of whom, most respectable persons, attended in the booth at his examination, and cautioned him, in every possible manner, to take care what he was about: He hesitated and trembled, but was encouraged to proceed.—After half an hour's doubt and suspense, with all the horrors of guilt painted strongly in

in his haggard countenance, he was proceeding to swear himself a *freeholder*, when up started his aged father, and begged him to desist, for he had not a *freehold*. The infatuated man, however, persisted; but could hardly support his tottering frame: He took the *gospel*, and *he swore*.—It was not extraordinary to suspect such a man of corruption; the bribery oath, therefore, was administered, which he swallowed with the utmost difficulty.—Every man present felt for his miserable situation. He retired from the booth, and has, before many people since, confessed his guilt, and lamented in tears his share of this shocking transaction.

Such a fact, Gentlemen, needs no comment; a prosecution will bring him before his country; and he, as well as some others, may live to rue the day they voted at this election.

October 15, 1774.

TRUTH.

LIX.

THE Independent **FREEHOLDERS** of the county, are requested to be upon their guard against the false insinuations of any man, who may artfully attempt to make them change their votes from Lord *Algernon Percy* to Sir *John Delaval*. Such of them as have promised Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *William Middleton*, and mean to serve Sir *William* and the glorious cause of independency, cannot do it more essentially than by adhering to their first engagements.

Amwick, Oct. 19, 1774.

NOW OR NEVER.

Lord

LX.

Lord TANKERVILLE'S REPRIMAND to his faithful Steward HUTCHINSON.

And the Lord commended the UNJUST STEWARD, because he had done WISELY; for the children of this world are in their generation, wiser than the children of light: And I say unto you, make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness, that when ye fail they may receive you into EVERLASTING HABITATIONS.

He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much; and he that is UNJUST in the least, is UNJUST also in much: If therefore ye have not been faithful in the UNRIGHTEOUS MAMMON, who will commit to your trust the TRUE RICHES?

Luke xvi. 5, 8, 9, 10, 11.

Ld Tan. **W**HY did not you answer my last letter, Hutchinson? — Hutch. My Lord.

Ld Tan. I say why did not you answer my letter about these cursed cotters? — Hutch. Indeed, my Lord, Sir John was very pressing, and I knew you had his cause at heart: He could not have stood the poll without them. — Ld Tan. Poll! what was the poll to me, compared to the cruel sacrifice you have made

of my estate? You have saddled me, amongst you, with a set of vagabonds, that it has been my earnest wish always to extirpate: You know it, Hutchinson.

Hutch. (In confusion) Your Lordship need not blame me; I hate the dogs as much as they hate me; but you must thank *Will Lowes* and *Cuthbert* for this pretty piece of management. What could I do; Sir John plagued me; *Lowes* and *Cuthbert* said it was right; and *Col. Grey* was so well beloved amongst them, that he divided your Lordship's interest among the good votes; but we need not be afraid: *Lowes* says we can easily knock them off again. — Ld Tan. How the devil

can that be? I have the best advice in England, that this very transaction tends to establish their right. —

Hutch. (With a horse laugh) No, no, my Lord, they have only SWORN to their freeholds; but we know they

they have no more right to vote than my horse.*—*Ld Tan.* This may be a good joke for Sir *John*; but I am heartily sorry both for their sakes, who are grossly perjured, and my own, that ever I engaged as I have in this election, or entrusted my interest to such a set of ***** — *Hutch.* Never fear, my Lord, they have served our purpose; and by G-d, we'll get quit of them for you amongst us.

Alnwick, Oct. 18, 1774.

* His own expression.

LXI.

A PHALANX of spirited patriots call upon the Duke of Northumberland, to answer whether he is not at present a candidate for court favour, in petitioning the ministry for the grant of the castle and its precincts at *Tynemouth*? — If he does prostrate himself thus abjectly at the feet of a base ministry, can his Grace's son, who is obtruded upon the county by the ducal influence of his father, be deemed independent of government.

NOR-

NORTHUMBERLAND CONTEST.

CANDIDATES.

Ld ALGERNON PERCY,

Sir JOHN HUSSEY DELAVAL, jointly:

AND

Sir WILLIAM MIDDLETON,

WILLIAM FENWICK, Esq; jointly.

AT the final close of the poll, on *Saturday* last the 22d of *October*, at *Alnwick*, the numbers stood as follow in the different wards, viz.

	P.	M.	D.	F.
<i>Castle Ward</i> - - -	145	121	150	89
<i>Morpeth ditto</i> - - -	174	170	152	113
<i>Coquetdale ditto</i> - - -	335	221	248	111
<i>Balmbrough ditto</i> - - -	58	113	45	96
<i>Glendale ditto</i> - - -	139	60	149	27
<i>Tindale ditto</i> - - -	384	414	339	323
Total polled for each -	1235	1099	1083	762

Whereupon Lord *Algernon Percy* and Sir *William Middleton*, were declared duly elected by the Sheriff.

ON

LXIII.

ON Saturday the 22d of October, the poll for the county of Northumberland, finally closed at Alnwick, when Lord Algernon Percy and Sir William Middleton, Bart. were declared duly elected.

A few minutes before the close of the poll, Sir John Hufsey Delaval addressed the freeholders in a short speech, to the full as *peevish*, but not quite so *ostentatious*, as his harangue at the *Morpeth* meeting.—He there bestowed the very polite appellation of ‘the mob’ on the freeholders, and boasted much that he should have ‘the shew of hands’ upon a poll: Upon the present occasion, however, finding that ‘the shew of hands’ was *not* for him on the poll, he contented himself with paying a compliment to the High Sheriff’s impartiality, and the ability of his counsel, Mr *Maddox*; yet, in the same breath, declared, ‘That he would be understood by no means to preclude himself from any legal redress (for what?) or from an enquiry to ascertain who had the majority of *real voters*.’

Sir John Delaval said this to the amazement of every sensible man: For it is the height of absurdity, surely, for any person who had the conscience to poll Lord Tankerville’s *Glendale* freeholders, to talk of *real voters*! One apology only can be admitted for this gentleman; that he was cruelly deceived and disappointed; and ‘losers have an undoubted right to complain.’

The learned and worthy Chairman of the Quarter Sessions, who was deputed to personate *Ld A. Percy*, having first retired to his lodgings, and bedecked himself with a *veteran* suit of blue and gold, new-furbished for the illustrious occasion, returned at once to charm the eye and captivate the ear by his happy figure and elocution.—He told us (but he first voted for Lord *Algernon* singly): ‘That he was extremely *sorry* to see so respectable an audience met on this occasion; but that, however, he begged leave to return them thanks, in the name of his Lordship, who, he was convinced, from what he had *heard* of him, and from his situation in life, was the most proper, if not the *only* pro-

‘ proper person, to represent the county ; but that, he
 ‘ must confess, he had not the honour of knowing
 ‘ any thing of his Lordship personally, but he had no rea-
 ‘ son to doubt that all he had said for him was strictly
 ‘ true.’ — But,

- ‘ Whether it be or no,
- ‘ That’s not for us to know ;
- ‘ O ! he’s a dainty fellow ! fellow !
- ‘ O ! he’s a dainty fellow !

Sir *William Middleton* next thanked the freeholders in a very handsome and well-judged address ; wherein, amongst many other things, he said, ‘ That he
 ‘ should always wish to receive their instructions on e-
 ‘ very important point ; that he should always, with
 ‘ becoming deference, listen to the opinion of his con-
 ‘ stituents, and recur, from time to time, to their su-
 ‘ perior advice and assistance ; and that he could an-
 ‘ swer so far for the integrity of his heart and the in-
 ‘ dependence of his principles, that any error in his
 ‘ conduct could not be intentional, but must be at-
 ‘ tributed entirely to its true cause, an error in judg-
 ‘ ment, to which every man is liable.’ — His speech
 ‘ was received with the most astonishing applause.

Mr *Grivethien*, in a few words, congratulated the freeholders on their victory over influence and power ; and said, ‘ He made no doubt, that with as good a
 ‘ cause, and the same spirit, union, and perseverance,
 ‘ they would always meet with similar success.’ — He then moved the thanks of the independent freeholders to Mr *Fenwick*, who had so nobly supported them on the present occasion ; and called upon their gratitude to repay him at some future day, for a conduct as singular and exemplary, as it was generous and disinterested. — He was seconded by *Charles Francis Forster*, Esq ; who made a short, but pertinent speech. — Every hand was up, and not a tongue was silent where the heart spoke approbation.

Mr *Fenwick* thanked the freeholders with all the warmth of honesty ; and assured them, ‘ That they
 ‘ should always find him a consistent friend to their
 S rights,

‘rights, and at all times equally ready to prove himself the same independent character.’

The High Sheriff was then thanked; and the meeting broke up with universal joy and satisfaction marked upon every countenance; for the creatures of the *Duke* and Sir *John* had slunk off, appalled at the sight of—*Independency triumphant!*

LXIV.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

GIVE me leave to return you my most sincere thanks for the high honour you have conferred on me, in electing me one of your Representatives in the new parliament.—The firm, generous, and independent support I have experienced throughout the whole of the late contest, demands my warmest acknowledgment, and calls aloud for every exertion in my power on your behalf.

Feeling, as I do, the generous motives which have influenced your actions, and given animation to your conduct in this glorious and successful struggle, I should be wanting, indeed, to every sense of gratitude and honour, were I to content myself with a common compliment, or profession of thanks, on so flattering an occasion.

Be assured then, Gentlemen, that I shall always strictly adhere to those principles which have procured me your approbation in the present instance, and induced you, against every combination of wealth and power, to place me in my present honourable situation. I desire to serve you no longer than I shall continue to merit the title of your independent representative; for I will be dependent in no other way, than upon your INSTRUCTIONS, which it shall always be my ambition, as I hold it to be my duty, to receive from my constituents.

A close attention to your interests, and the rights of the

the nation at large, in parliament, shall mark my fidelity to the important trust you have reposed in me; and as far as my abilities will allow, I can safely promise to serve you with unremitted vigilance and ardour.

Permit me now, Gentlemen, to bear testimony to the very manly and disinterested conduct of my worthy friend, Mr *Fenwick*:—To his generous assistance we are greatly indebted for our present victory:—The readiness with which he obeyed the call of Freedom, and stepped forward to support your rights, reflects the highest honour upon his character, and I trust will always be held in grateful remembrance by every independent freeholder.——*I am, Gentlemen,*

With the greatest gratitude and respect,

BELSAY-CASTLE,

Your most faithful,

O^r. 24, 1774.

And most devoted humble servant,

WM MIDDLETON.

LXV.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

PERMIT me in the absence, and on behalf of *Ld Algernon Percy*, to return you my most sincere and hearty thanks for your generous support, and for the very great honour you have now conferred upon him, by electing him one of your Representatives in Parliament, by so distinguished a majority; and, at the same time, I beg leave to assure you, that the friendly and obliging manner with which you countenanced me as his proxy on the occasion, has laid me under great obligations to you.——*I am, Gentlemen,*

Your most obedient,

And most obliged humble servant,

Little-barle, O^r. 25, 1774.

G. AYNSLEY.

To

LXVI.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county of Northumberland,

GENTLEMEN,

THE Family and Friends of *Ld. Algernon Percy*, in his absence, take the earliest opportunity of returning their most grateful thanks to the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county of *Northumberland*, who have so generously honoured him with their support, and elected him one of their Representatives in Parliament, being fully persuaded that he will ever retain a just sense of this very obliging instance of their friendship.

October 25, 1774.

LXVII.

SEATON-DELAVAL, Oct. 24, 1774.

I Take this opportunity of making my warmest acknowledgements to my friends, who have supported me, as a Candidate to represent the county of *Northumberland* in parliament, for the honourable testimony which they have given of their indulgent sense of my past conduct, and of their favourable confidence in my future deportment.—I shall always retain a grateful remembrance of that distinguishing mark of their esteem, and will earnestly endeavour to preserve their good opinion, whether it shall be my lot to discharge the duties of a private station, or to contribute towards the prosperity of this respectable county, and the preservation of our civil and religious rights.

I am,

Their most faithful

And most devoted humble servant,

JOHN HUSSEY DELAVAL.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county of Northumberland.

GENTLEMEN,

I Congratulate you on the success with which your late spirited endeavours have been crowned by the election of Sir *William Middleton*; and although from prior engagements, and a variety of concurrent circumstances, my personal desire to serve you in parliament has proved ineffectual, I trust you will believe me, when I assure you, that no man partakes more sincerely of the general joy so apparent throughout the whole county, on the event of my worthy friend's uninfluenced election.

If I have in any degree been so fortunate as to aid your generous efforts, or been happily instrumental in rescuing you from the oppression of a system, which aimed evidently at the total overthrow of your independency, I claim no other merit than as a consistent friend to your rights and privileges, and your undoubted claim to a free choice of representatives.

Upon these principles I have always acted; and you may be assured, that the same disinterested spirit, the same honest zeal to serve you, shall direct my actions to the last moment of my life.

Firmness and unanimity have conducted us with honour to our present victory, and cannot fail, on any future occasion, of stamping with still more complete success, the good sense, discernment, and determined Independence of the freeholders of *Northumberland*. . .

I am, Gentlemen, with great respect,

Your most obliged,

BYWELL,

And obedient humble servant,

Per 25, 1774.

WM FENWICK.

POETICAL PIECES.

(To his son T V N.)

FULL long have I bailed from Biths,
 And now am returned with life;
 Let Neptune be thank'd for alive,
 And in comfort at home with my wife.

The *hoirs* climb about me so glad,
 No Tar more delighted can be;
 Here's Rachel, and Sue, and the lad,
 And we sport like the fish on the sea.

When my wages grow light in the bag,
 On with trowsers, and steer out for more;
 But 'till I need torn to the flag,
 I have *mainsails* to furl on the shore.

The house and the fields I possess,
 Are free as your freeholds elsewhere;
 A neighbour will tell you no less,
 A neighbour that's honest and fair.

Two votes, if entitled to give,
 By the *compass* I'll set him down One;
 'Tis steady boys! fix'd as I live,
 And I mean it for worthy Sir JOHN.

Behold him a patron of trade,
 A friend to the *sail* and the *plough*;
 To vote for such men, who's afraid?
 'Tis what Liberty's self will allow.

That our ships have been losing too long,
 Coal-owners and fitters agree;
 And where, to relieve us from wrong,
 Shall we find one more able than HE?

Dear Susan, come now from thy wheel,
 And fill me a flaskin of ale;
 What raptures, Old Ocean! I feel,
 When I drink to the *plough* and the *sail*.

Two votes, if entitled to give,
 By the *compass* I'll set him down One;
 'Tis steady, boys! fix'd as I live,
 And I mean it for worthy Sir JOHN.

Nro

*Nam genus ex proximo et quo non fecimus ipsi
Vix ea nostra vocis.*

DETECTION.

Tune, a Coder there was, &c.

LEST freemen forget whom hereafter to praise,
Whom with infamy brand, whom with honour to raise ;
Accept of a song, which when after election
You may sing to your children, and call it detection.

Derry down, down, derry down, down.

The spawn of a Smithson my song first demands,
If ever he comes from his wet mother's hands ;
He'll break in the carriage, he'll ne'er be convey'd,
He'll fall into pieces and spoil your parade.

Iago the faithful, the generous friend,
Who would sacrifice all to gain a bad end ;
Of his character more I here need not treat on,
If further you'd know, pray enquire Sirs at Seaton.

There's Stephen who would the poor fishermen ruin,
If their conscience they follow'd and cause they were true in ;
And A—n—y the MILD, can no character be,
Who espousing one party has voted for three.

To hear Peter C——ll, that curious wild boy,
Of freedom in private, he'll talk till you drow ;
Independence he cries till the coffee-house rings,
If you chuse not your members he calls you " poor things."

Yet when call'd on by freedom that spirit to draw,
He first must enquire, " how does R——n——th go ;"
Who in that of the duke's his own interest let down,
But by leading our party had gain'd great renown.

Will. L—w—s to his credit it must here be said,
At Hexham ONCE blushed, OR looked very red ;
While C——thb——t still shews by his grins and grimace,
That his mind is distorted, as well as his face.

And as for fat HOPPER I'd let him alone,
If he'd give us his quibbles in some better tone ;
To Billingsgate send him, or further than Delhi,
For at present I swear he's a note above Eli.

Such shallows and sands are on Balmby's coast,
If not well avoided you'll surely be lost,
Since SHARP's then the word, suppose the A—b—n—n,
For fear of bad pilots, we hold out a beacon.

Lo SANDY so pompous, so empty declares,
For his cousin Sir John he'd lose both his ears ;
ON HIS HONOUR he never gave threats or reward,
Yet time will evince he has play'd a wrong card.

One G—ll—n, one F—ll—r, J—k F—ll—r we leave,
At the castle on Sundays their reward to receive ;

When

Where at present a chop-house is open'd, you know,
And if you'll COME IN they'll charge VERY LOW.

With T—k—le, P—l—d, C—le, and Sir W—l—t,
I'd fain make a rhyme, and that rhyme must be HALTER;
Of the D^oc and Sir J^oa as enough has been said,
We'll give them a sweating and put them to bed.

Derry down, &c.

III.

TUNE, HOSIER'S GHOST.

Night had spread her sable curtain,
Busy man was hush'd to rest;
Airy visions now were sporting,
I too slept with toil oppress'd;
Toil, which in the cause so glorious,
Of Northumbria's sons I shar'd;
When in arms as if victorious,
Sudden she herself appear'd.

One foot rested on a plowshare,
On a rudder leant her hand;
Emblems these of native treasure,
Which enrich Northumberland.
Know, says she, my sons, whom honour,
Thro' the hard contention leads;
Success and fame that wait upon her,
Soon shall crown your gallant deeds.

Come and see what chains Ambition
Had prepar'd to put you on;
Whilst the LORDLY coalition;
Fondly thought the business done;
But their secret combinations
Into pieces I will break;
And Sir Walter's machinations
Shall receive a timely check.

See where MIDDLETON and FENWICK,
Names well known to me of old;
March in brave array to ALNWICK,
Fifteen hundred voters bold.
Now at last each stout freeholder,
Knows the value of his vote;
And in courage waxing bolder,
Care not for a LORD one groat.

As for you, my sons of glory,
Who the great example set;
Honest fame shall grace your story,
And Northumbria ne'er forget.
Thus she spoke, when lo the vision,
Vanish'd at the approach of day;
I obey the admonition,
And to ALNWICK post away.

Northumbrians attend,
Your freedom defend,
From ev'ry despotic invasion.
Your Dukes and your Lords,
Would bind you with cords,
Yet treat you with smiles and evasion.

This maxim pursue,
Believe me its true,
And holds when its duly adjusted,
The man whom you find,
To cheat you inclin'd,
Ought never again to be trusted.

Lord Algernon's ill,
And some who have skill,
Are doubtful he'll never be better.
Besides his alliance,
Prohibits affiance,
And surely your freedom would fetter.

You'll all be undone,
For chusing Sir John,
A man of deceitful complexion.
With poisonous breath,
He sing'd you to death,
About Mr Wilkes's election.

Ye Gods! what a stain!
To trust him again,
Is quite inconsistent with reason.
Then Britons be brave,
Reject the proud slave,
Now, now, is the critical season.

Two worthies present,
By providence sent,
Your freedom from slav'ry to sever,
Hail them with applause,
And with loud huzzas,
Sing Bywell and Belfay for ever.

V.
Tune, By Jove I'll be free.

Britannia look down, and complacently smile,
Thy sons are united, how glorious their toil;
Northumbria the grand entertainment affords,
Her 'squires restraining the power of her Lords,
In them neither pride nor contention we see,
From LORDLY dominion they want to be free,
They want, &c.

T

Since

Since freedom's our glory, our health and our fame,
And Britons alone that great blessing can claim;
Our hearts we'll unite in this critical hour,
To crush the fell Hydra of despotic power.

And every true Briton rejoicing shall see,
From LORDLY dominion we'll fight ourselves free.

Behold the grand group of respectable names,
Northumbria repeats them; their worth she proclaims,
Fame bears the glad tidings to each distant ear,
And titled ambition must own a defeat.

In them neither pride nor contention we see,
From LORDLY dominion they want to be free.

Ye fair to whom bountiful nature has given,
The radiant tints, and the graces of heaven,
Your swains with the spirit of freedom inspire,
And let their just praises trill on the sweet lyre.

In them neither pride nor contention we see,
From LORDLY dominion they want to be free.

VI.

YE freeholding rabble, attend to my song,
And leave the distinctions of right and of wrong
To those who have heads fit to govern a state,
Yet deign to determine your choice and your fate.

Derry down, down, hey derry down, &c.

A Percy vouchsafes to accept of your voice,
Then gratefully grant it, with transport rejoice
His vassals to kneel, and account it great gain,
That he honours your dastardly necks with his chain.

Nay more for your good, this kind Duke recommends
Sir John, the most pliant and best of his friends;
Who knows all your poor-laws, your mines, and your trade,
And stuffs all your stomachs full—of his parade.

Attach'd to your interest, he never will fail,
No minister artful shall ever prevail,
His firmness to stagger with pension or place:
A PARAGRAPH—or nothing, his zeal can efface.

How can you mistrust?—See Sir Walter your guide,
The patron of freedom, Northumberland's pride,
Hums out, Independency's now but a jest,
And owns to submit to his Grace is the best.

To those who are govern'd with chapter and verse,
Our minstrel, the chaplain, full oft doth rehearse,
That such as nor smiles nor fair speeches can win,
'Tis lawful and right to compel to come in.

Then down with your Middletons, Penwicks, and all,
Such fellows want money and wit to enthrall;

The pill's neatly gild, then at once gulp it down,
And huzza, my brave boys, for the Lord and Sir John,
Derry down, down, &c.

VII.

Written on the window of an inn, in Northumberland.

On the fabulous Lord A. P.—

NON his juvenus, orta parentibus
Infecit æquor sanguine Punico :
Pyrrhumque, et ingentem cecidit
Antiochum, Hannibalemque dirum.

Hor. Carm. 3. od. 6.

Done into English.

Not such as spring from S—h—n's feeble loins,
E'er ting'd the foaming Tweed with Scottish blood,
When gallant Percy with Northumbria's sons
Eager for battle stemm'd the rapid flood :
And deeds atchiev'd, which time shall ne'er cancel,
When Murray, Lamb, and mighty Douglas fell !

F I N I S.

ERRATA.

Page 13, l. 12, dele *own*.—P. 28, l. 16, for *Lowes*, read *Lower's*.—
P. 39, l. 31, for *passing*, r. *passion*.—P. 45, l. 34, for *principles*, r. *prin-*
ciple.—P. 64, l. 34, for *it is*, r. *is it*.—P. 67, l. 5, for *is*, r. *at*.—P.
87, l. 36, for *may set up*, r. *might set up*.—P. 95, l. 37, for *is patrons*, r.
his patrons.—P. 97, l. 3, dele *would*.—P. 103, l. 6, for *palpably acted*,
r. *acted palpably*.—P. 106, last l. for *inclinations*, r. *inclination*.—
P. 35, in the list of names, dele *Mr Rt Lisle, of Morpeth* : Because
he repeatedly promised his support, but turned an apostate, and
voted for P. and D.—He is said to be worth 60,000 l. and has no
family ; yet from his penurious disposition is supposed to have been
b—d !

